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OCT. 1, 1999 FREE VOLUME 30 ISSUE 1

Niagara News is produced by the Journalism—Print students at Niagara College, Welland Campus

On Sept. 11, Gov. Gen. Romeo LeBlanc (left) attended the re-dedication of the Welland-Crowland Memorial in Chippawa Park. At right is acting mayor of Welland, Leo VanVliet. Inset shows Royal Canadian Legion Colour Guard of Welland.

Photo by Tara Purpura

Romeo LeBlanc re-dedicates war memorial

By MANDI SPEELMAN
Staff Writer

The unveiling of a plaque designating the Welland-Crowland War Memorial as having historical importance took place at Chippawa Park in Welland on Sept. 11.

Veterans and people young and old came to the park to watch Governor General Romeo LeBlanc, Speaker of the House of Commons Gilbert Parent and Niagara-Centre MPP Peter Kormos speak about the two world wars and the significance of the statue to Canadians.

"We shall never lose them (soldiers) in our memories and in our hearts again. This temple guards our memories," said LeBlanc.

He said most of the soldiers "were barely more than boys" when their lives were forever changed by the "reality of war.".

The people left behind were also "deeply affected" by the war, he said. "Whether it was parents enduring long nights of worry or members of the public awaiting what they could do to help, their contributions will not be forgotten."

Continued on page 2

Enrolment at all-time high

By MIRANDA HUBBS
Staff Writer

Niagara College has experienced a steady growth over the last few years and is continuing to thrive, says Al Vaughan, college registrar.

In the third week of classes the college had about 5,000 full-time students, about the same as last year.

Even though enrolment hasn't taken a major jump this year, the college is at an all-time high for Term 1.

In addition to the 5,000 full-time students, the college has about 350 part-time students and 18,000 Continuing Education students.

These figures are a combination of enrolments at the three campuses in Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls.

Vaughan says these numbers are good because last year the college intentionally cut programs "so we can ensure more than ever that the students we take in are going to be successful and get jobs in the end."

He says the cuts were made so the college "could better match the job market."

With the opening of the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake a year ago and the start of a number of new programs, enrolment has thrived, says Vaughan.

The program that has attracted the most attention for the college is the Business Administration program.

Next September, the Glendale campus will open its own student residence.

Vaughan says that should also help increase the enrolment.

Teachers on tour

Colombian high school principals tour Niagara College, Welland campus, on Sept. 29.

Photo by Leigh Beihl

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POLITICS

Governor General important to Canada

By TARA PURPURA
Staff Writer

The role of Governor General is built on four major themes: representing the Crown in Canada, promoting Canadian sovereignty, celebrating excellence and encouraging national identity, national unity and moral leadership.

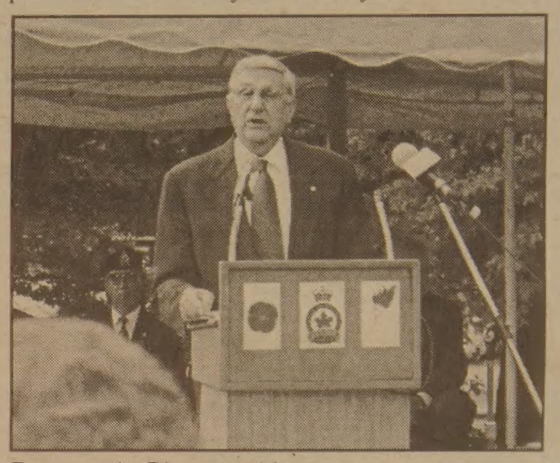
The Governor General represents the Crown, giving Royal assent to bills passed by the House of Commons and the Senate. He or she presides over the swearing in of the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of Canada and cabinet ministers.

The appointed Governor General is the Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian Forces and presents military honours. Since the days of the first Governor General, The Viscount Monck, appointees to the position have received visiting heads of state and represented Canada abroad.

The area of celebrating excellence is vast in the number of awards and certificates that are given. The Order of Canada, created in 1967, is the highest honour given in Canada for outstanding achievement, merit or service. The Governor General routinely presents Coats of Arms that honour people and groups who have contributed to Canada.

Students benefit from the Governor General's Academic Medal, which is awarded for highest academic standing in a Canadian secondary school, college or university.

This year Canadian astronaut Julie Payette took the Millennium Edition of the map of Canada into space. Copies were distributed to every school in Canada to promote national unity and identity.



Romeo LeBlanc addresses spectators at Chippawa Park.

Photo by Tara Purpura

Romeo Leblanc

Born:	1927 in Memramcook, N.B.
Education:	BA and B Ed l'Universite St-Joseph, Memramcook. l'Universite de Paris.
Career:	Teacher, 1951-1959; Radio-Canada correspondent, 1960-1967; Press Secretary for Pearson and Trudeau, 1967-1971; elected to House of Commons, 1972; Minister of the Crown, 1974-1984; Cabinet committee member, 1974-1984; Senate member,1984; Speaker of the Senate,1993. Appointed 25th Governor General of Canada,1995
Highlights:	First Governor General from the Atlantic provinces. First Governor General to attend state visits in Czech Republic (1996), India and Pakistan (1998) and Africa (1999). Launched the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award in 1996. Signed a proclamation to create National Aboriginal Day on June 21, 1996. Signed the proclamation for the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999.

*Information compiled from the Governor General's website (www.gg.ca).

Adrienne Clarkson

Born:	1939 in Hong Kong, came to Canada with her family in 1942 as a refugee.
Education:	Honours BA and MA in English Literature, University of Toronto. Post-graduate degree, Sorbonne, Paris.
Career:	CBC broadcaster 1965-1982; president McClelland and Stewart Publishing 1988-1998; Ontario's first Agent General in Paris, 1982-1987; appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada, 1992; appointed the 26th Governor General of Canada,will be sworn in on Oct. 7.
Highlights:	First member of a visible minority to hold the position of Governor General. Second woman since Jeanne Sauvé to be appointed Governor General.
Family:	Married to writer John Ralston Saul.

*Information compiled from the Prime Minister's Web site (www.cg.ca).

War memorial statue adds historical significance

Continued from page 1

Marie Kowatch, of Welland, was one of the onlookers of the event. She said the ceremony was "wonderful" and "a reminder" to her.

Kowatch's husband was in the Second World War and "got hurt" during the war. She said since her husband's death, she tries to keep in touch with the Royal Canadian Legion since "there's a lot of memories there."

She said the importance of the Governor General being at the event was that "he represents a big part of Canada and if he's interested, well then other people will automatically get interested, especially the younger people."

Canadian Lyn Wood sculpted the Welland-Crowland War Memorial statue. It was designed to honour the deceased from the First World War. The unveiling of the statue took place at the start of the Second World War in 1939, connecting the memorial to both events. One of the members who helped select Wood's design in 1934 said it was the "most original and personal design among those submitted, and I believe it will be one of the most outstanding memorials in Canada."

"We have a great and historical piece of Canadian art here in our community and an acknowledged and leading sculptor," said Kormos.

He said the rich and the powerful don't fight wars, just like the rich and powerful "don't erect these kind of monuments. The wars have been fought by hard-working decent people, their families and children. This monument was erected by those same families 50 cents and a $1 at a time."

LeBlanc said he hoped the historical treasure would stand for generations to come.

"Let it always be a reminder to us that the ideal so many young Canadians bravely fought to defend — democracy, freedom, tolerance and understanding — are still morals that guide us today."

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

College officials explain Tory donation

By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

The purchase of tickets by Niagara College officials to attend top Tory fund-raising events has put more than $3,000 in the coffers of the provincial Progressive Conservative Party, and has drawn criticism from Niagara-Centre MPP Peter Kormos.

Calling it "repugnant" and "very serious," Kormos said it is inappropriate for any public institution, including Niagara College, to be involved in partisan political activities.

Kormos' comments came in response to the findings of a report by Robert MacDermid, a professor of political science at York University, in Toronto.

Niagara College was one of 13 publicly funded, education-sector institutions that made contributions to the Tories, according to MacDermid's research.

The report, titled *Funding the Common Sense Revolutionaries*, compares the source and amount of donations to Ontario's three major political parties, between 1995 and 1997.

The names of donors to political parties with contributions of $100 or more in any given year are a matter of public record under the Elections Finance Act.

Christopher Blake, director of marketing and communications at Niagara College, said the college booked tables at three separate Tory fund-raising dinners attended by senior government leaders between 1995 and 1998.

"I don't want members of the Board of Governors participating in partisan fund-raising events as members of the Board of Governors. They are perfectly free to do what they want in their own personal lives," Kormos said.

Tom Gauld, chair of Niagara College's Board of Governors, said the college "never intended to, and does not want to, support a political party."

"I think what people should focus on is the intent, and that is perfectly clear."

Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College, said attending the fund-raising dinners, and, in particular, one in which Premier Mike Harris and the minister of education were present, "was an opportunity to meet the minister and other people who make decisions which affect our college."

"Our intent was always to support our students," he added.

With the exception of Patterson, who said he went to at least two of the fund-raising events, it remains unclear who else attended on behalf of the college or its foundation.

Blake said the ticket prices were "about $1,000 a table," with two tables having been booked at one of the three events.

When asked if the $2,518 contribution attributed to Niagara College in the MacDermid report was the total amount spent by the college to purchase the tickets, Blake said "No, it was $4,000."

After deductions for costs of dinners, over $3,000 remained as the fund-raising donation.

> ***The college 'never intended to, and does not want to, support a political party.'***
> ***—Tom Gauld***

While Niagara College paid for the tickets, Blake said the entire cost of the tickets was later reimbursed by way of donations to the Niagara College Foundation, the college's money-raising arm.

"No taxpayer money went to the Tory party, as, in fact, it was reimbursed by private individuals."

The identity of those who reimbursed the money cannot be revealed because, said Blake, "we (Niagara College) never release information about our donors."

Dan Patterson (far right), president of Niagara College, and Tom Gauld (second from right), chair of Niagara College's Board of Governors, welcome three new board members: from left, are Andrew Neale, Barry Sharpe and Kevin Reles.

Photo by John Robbins

Senior college officials agree that the practice of purchasing tickets to political fund-raisers by the college is subject to controversy and will be discontinued in the future.

"Obviously, the current arrangement is unacceptable and we will cease to do this in the future," Patterson said.

Kormos said representatives of Niagara College have spoken to him about the matter, but he cautions "the college should be careful that (the college) the name doesn't appear on partisan financial lists."

According to a spokesperson at Elections Ontario, the government body that oversees campaign finance legislation, there is nothing in the Election Finance Act that prohibits a community college from making a financial contribution to a political party, as long as it is not a registered charity.

In an interview with the Niagara News, MacDermid, whose own institution (York University) appears in the report with a donation of $125, emphasized the importance of disclosing the names of donors.

"In a democracy, we should know who is supporting political parties. That's something every voter should know during the campaign."

Reles, two others named to Niagara College's Board of Govenors

By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

A guided tour, a nice meal and then — "the big show."

For Kevin Reles, student representative to Niagara College's Board of Governors, this was no vacation.

A third-year Business Administration — Operations Management (Co-op) program student, Reles participated in an orientation for new members before attending the board's first session of the academic year.

"I didn't know what to expect, but it was a good experience," he said.

The 21-year-old Port Colborne resident is no stranger to campus politics.

Following the resignation of the vice-president of campus events at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake last year, Reles was elected to serve the remainder of the term.

> ***'I didn't know what to expect, but it was a good experience.'***
> ***— Kevin Reles***

Referring to members of the Board of Governors, Reles said the college is well served by individuals who fully represent the diversity of programs.

The members of the Board of Governors, he said, are "pro-active, and they really want to be involved and give back to the school."

In addition to the daily work of his co-op placement and his responsibilities on the board, Reles is seeking election as Student Administrative Council president at the Glendale campus. This vacancy will be filled in an upcoming byelection.

"College is what you make of it. I hope I can encourage student pride and participation."

The Board of Governors welcomed two other new members at the Sept. 16 meeting: Barry Sharpe, dean of the Foundations Studies division, as a representative of the college's administrative staff; and Andrew Neale, vice-president of information technology at Niagara Credit Union.

NIAGARA NEWS PUBLISHING SCHEDULE 1999-2000

The Niagara News publishes 16 editions during the academic year.
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1999	2000
Oct. 1	Jan. 21
	Jan. 28
Oct. 15	Feb. 4
Oct. 29	Feb. 11
	Feb. 18
Nov. 12	BREAK WEEK
	March 10
Nov. 26	March 17
	March 24
Dec. 10	April 7
(Xmas break)	April 21

ACHIEVEMENTS

Journalism-Print students receive awards

Six second-year Niagara College Journalism-Print program students were recently awarded scholarships and plaques by Leo Tiberi, director of the Communication and Information Technology Division (at left). Pictured from left are Martin McQuaig, Natsuko Tamura, Matt Holley, Phyllis Barnatt, Journalism-Print program co-ordinator, Penni Lafleur, Mandi Speelman and John Robbins. Absent was Sam Bayly.

Photo by Tara Purpura

Scholarships and plaques were given to six second-year Journalism-Print students on behalf of the Board of Governors for accomplishments

Six second-year Niagara College Journalism-Print program students were recently awarded scholarships and plaques on behalf of the college's Board of Governors for their studies during their first year at the college.

The presentations were made by Leo Tiberi, director of the Communication and Information Technology Division, last month.

The student winners included the following: Martin McQuaig, 22, of St. Catharines, who received the Niagara Falls Review Journalism Award for demonstrating an interest, flair and ability to become a good reporter; Natsuko Tamura, 21, of Japan, who received the St. Catharines Standard Scholarship for demonstrating a flair for writing and promise to become a good reporter; Matt Holley, 21, of St. Catharines, who received the Philip Mansfield Memorial Scholarship for demonstrating academic achievement; Penni Lafleur, 38, of Welland, who received the Welland Tribune Journalism Scholarship for demonstrating an ability and dedication to be a good reporter; Mandi Speelman, 19, of New Liskeard, Ont., who also received a Philip Mansfield Memorial Scholarship for demonstrating academic achievement; and John Robbins, 31, of Ridgeway, who received the Niagara Baie Comeau Community Foundation Scholarship valued at $400.

Absent from the presentation was Sam Bayly, 25, of Sarnia, who received the Larry Smith Journalism Scholarship for demonstrating excellence in reporting and news writing. Smith was a longtime editor at the St. Catharines Standard.

NIAGARA NEWS

Produced by the Second-year Journalism—Print students, Welland Campus

Niagara News rapidly entering 21st century

Niagara News enters uncharted territory, with this 32-page newspaper fully paginated

With a little confusion, some pulling out of hair and some angst, the Niagara News has fully entered the 21st century.

With the new millennium less than 90 days away, the Niagara News is entering uncharted territory.

This 32-page newspaper was fully paginated using the latest (and we mean latest) computer technology.

In addition to computers from the MacLab (S204), the newspaper was paginated using 12 Power Macintosh G3 computers in the Journalism-Print program's new lab (S212).

Gone are the old, huge light tables where the tried and tested cut-and-paste method was used in the production of the newspaper.

"What a great time to be taking this program because of the change in technology," said Penni Lafleur, 38, of Welland, the newspaper's first editor. "It has enabled us to incorporate more creative changes with the paper."

Pagination was done Wednesday and Thursday. Our next newspaper will be published on Oct. 15.

The 16 editions of Niagara News are a production of the Journalism-Print program's second-year class. The printing of 5,000 copies is done at Can-Web Printing Inc. in Grimsby.

'What a great time to be taking this program because of the change in technology.'

—Penni Lafleur

"The advances in training would not be possible without the support and vote of confidence the Board of Governors, the college administration and our director, Leo Tiberi, have given to the program," Phyllis Barnatt, program co-ordinator, said. "It's an exciting opportunity for faculty and especially our students."

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EMPLOYMENT

Students have hard time finding work

By PAUL MOONEY
Staff Writer

It's a tough act.

"Balancing school and work seems like an impossible task," said David Caron, a second-year student at Niagara College's Welland campus. Caron, 19, in the Computer Programmer/Analyst program, says he wants to work to improve his financial situation, but fears work will "interfere with school."

Tiffany Mitchell, 19, a first-year Broadcasting -- Radio, Television and Film student, is as reluctant as Caron to pursue part-time employment.

"I'm hoping to find a waitress job that could offer me roughly 10 hours a week, but I imagine very few restaurants are looking to employ a student for so few hours," said Mitchell.

Mitchell said she's not sure what kind of part-time work could best fit her agenda as a student.

"The big problem for me is that I'm worried that I'll find a job that initially offers me the hours that I want and then, over time, my hours will increase, making my schedule too strenuous."

Amy Elder is the acting manager at Niagara College's Employment Service Centre. Elder says the centre "acts as a means for students to receive some assistance in their search for a job."

"The jobs available through our service department are offered by employers who are willing to work around a student's hectic schedule," said Elder.

Niagara's Employment Services has numerous listings of available positions. Each requires students to work an average of 12 hours a week.

> ***'Many students don't know where to turn when looking for work.'***
>
> ***—Amy Elder***

Both Caron and Mitchell were unaware Niagara College had an employment service department.

"Many students don't know where to turn when looking for work," said Elder.

The Employment Service Centre has three available branches, one at each college campus. Each branch offers similar programs and information sessions concerning on-campus and off-campus job listings, graduate employment and co-op education.

All of the centres provide computer and telephone resources for contacting employers, cover pages and resume-writing assistance. The centre also has an enormous on-line job search option.

Any student interested in finding part-time employment can check the job boards located directly outside the Employment Services offices. The listings are updated regularly. Any part-time positions received from local employers will be posted on the job boards and are generally "designed for students."

Students who wanted to learn more about how to effectively obtain work attended a free job fair on Sept. 29 at the Croatian Hall in Welland. The job fair was presented by Human Resources Development Canada.

"The job fair is a good start for any student trying to find work," said Elder.

Niagara College recently held its own seminar on employment.

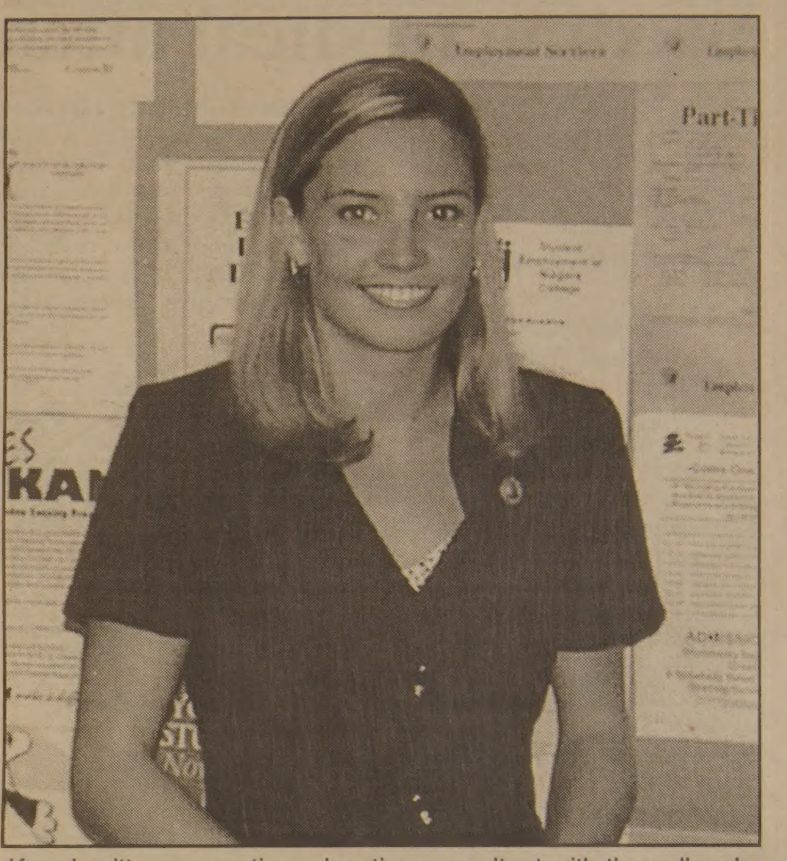
"I noticed a great increase in interest this year," said Elder, of the success of the recent seminar. She said students seemed eager to find part-time employment.

The job fair offered seminars in career planning, interviewing tips and on-line job searches.

Employment Services helps not only students looking for part-time work but also students in search of work in their field of study.

Janet Forfar is a graduate services consultant for Employment Services.

"Our Web site has recently been improved so we literally receive job listings from all over the country," said Forfar.



Kara Levitt, co-operative education consultant with the college's Employment Services, will assist students in finding jobs.

Photo by Robert Lapensée

Employment Services will assist graduated students to find work in their field for up to one full year after graduation.

Students interested in any of the services provided by the Employment Services at Niagara College can find the offices at SE101 on the Welland campus and at W107 at the Glendale campus. Students at the Maid of the Mist Centre can go to the Co-op Education and Career Services Office.

Extra! Extra!
Read All About It!

We are pleased to announce the creation of a new publication, "Casino News and Entertainment," set to hit shelves October 31, 1999.

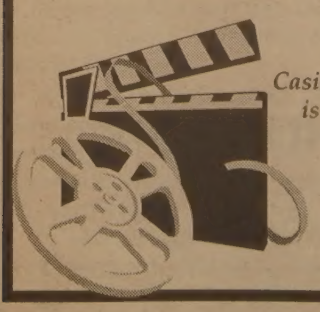
Providing the people of the Niagara region & it's neighbors with ***an informative and insightful view*** of the Canadian gaming, entertainment, art's, tourism and hospitality community. According to publisher, Rose Ann Stewart, the *Casino News and Entertainment philosophy is simple, "people work most of their lives and deserve to relax whether it's bingo, slots, the cultural enjoyment of the art's and theatre, or the intimacy of a quiet piano-bar."

Niagara businessman, Mark De Marco, couldn't agree more, "this is going to be a hot-bed of entertainment and opportunity for the community and we want to be Niagara's #1-information source for fun and excitement!"

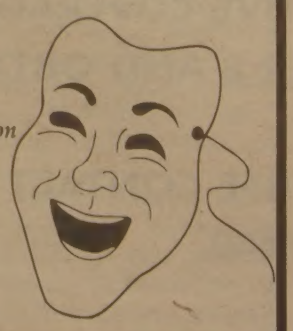
We invite the citizens of Niagara and beyond to get involved.

Let us know what you think and what would like to see in our publication. By promoting the good-fortune and artistic abilities of the people, we can all contribute to a vibrant community lifestyle. Keeping this in mind, a healthy community is also one which recognizes and discusses areas of concern associated with such a diverse industry.

Casino News and Entertainment, Inc., is proud to provide this information to you and welcomes your question, comments or suggestions. For more information contact Rose Ann at (905) 374-2689 or 1-888-675-6564.



Casino News and Entertainment Incorporated publication is an independent entity and is privately owned and operated. It has no investment, association or affiliation with the gaming, or entertainment-industries beyond advertisement purchased by the aforementioned.



Apply for loans online at new OSAP Web site

Students can save money, time by applying online

By SAM BAYLY
Staff Writer

You can save time by applying for your student loan online.

"I'd like to see everyone apply online," said Tina Racher, 26, of Welland, one of the front-line administrators at the Admissions and Financial Aid office at Niagara College's Welland campus.

Students can save $10 and have their application completed faster by filling out an application on the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) Web site.

Racher said students should remember to thoroughly read their application. "Ninety per cent of problems students have are due to the lack of reading the material," said Racher. Often mistakes are made by not filling out the information correctly, she added.

One question students almost always ask is whether they need their social insurance number (SIN) to receive their loan, she said. She confirmed students should have the number ready when they pick up their forms, although they don't need their card. Students need to provide a form with their SIN on it, as long as the form is not from the ministry of education.

Applications can be filled out now. They must be completed before the last 90 days left in the student's last semester.

> ***'lessens the load'***
>
> ***—Tina Racher***

At the beginning of the semester, OSAP forms can be picked up at the open access computer lab after students have registered for the school year, said Racher. Using the lab "lessens the load" and allows staff to deal with "unique" problems at the main office. OSAP can be picked up directly at the office at SE103.

To apply online go to http://osap/gov.on.ca. If you have any questions, contact the Admissions and Financial Aid office at (905) 735-0419. The office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

SAC

New drug plan benefits students needing medical attention

New SAC drug plan brings relief to those who need prescription drugs

By JASON VIZBULIS
Staff Writer

This year students will receive financial help when paying for their prescription drugs.

Starting the first day of classes and ending Aug. 31, 2000, Niagara College students will be able to claim 80 per cent of the cost of prescription drugs they use.

After the students voted to accept the drug plan last year, the Student Administrative Council (SAC) initiated it.

Students pay $54.71 as part of their SAC fees towards the drug plan. Those who can prove they already have coverage through parents or employment can opt out of the program by Oct. 8 and get back $44. Students can pick up the proper forms at any of the SAC offices at the three campuses.

The drug plan covers most prescriptions, with the exception of non-essential drugs. These include fertility drugs, male pattern baldness remedies, anti-smoking remedies, preventative vaccines and contraceptives. Also included in the plan are accidental dental expense, out-of-province medical coverage and an emergency taxi expense up to $50 if transportation is needed to the doctor's office or hospital, according to the brochure available at the SAC offices.

The drug plan not only covers full-time students. Part-time students who want to take advantage of the plan must pick up a form at the SAC offices and pay $54.71.

Jen Beatty, SAC president at the Welland campus, said the plan would help Niagara students. "It is good for the students," she said. "A lot of people don't have the health coverage and this is an opportunity to get some of the money back."

> ***'A lot of people don't have the health coverage, and this is an opportunity to get some of the money back.'***
> ***— Jen Beatty***

Beatty said most of the students need the coverage "because only 40 students have opted out" of the plan at the Welland campus.

For the first four weeks of school, students must pay in full for their prescriptions. They will be reimbursed after the program is fully effective.

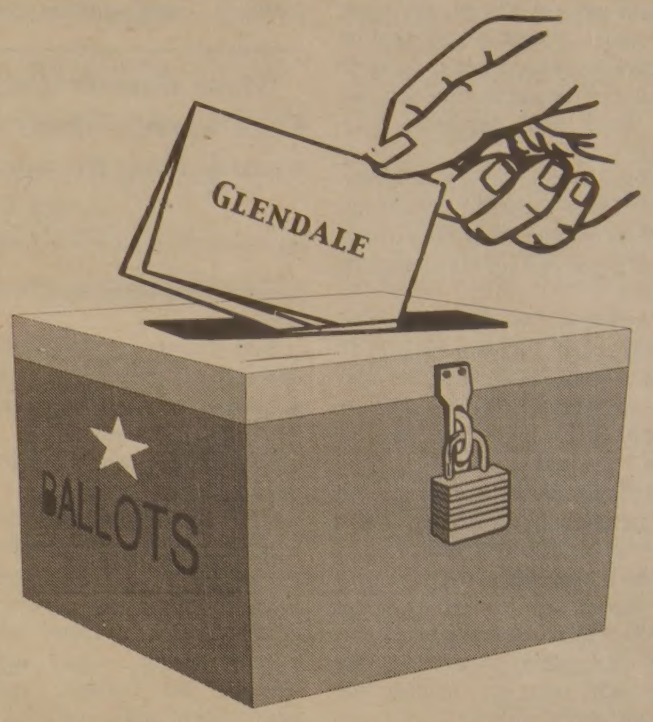
Byelection set for Glendale

Being on student government is often a thankless job. Students expect their Student Administrative Council (SAC) to organize top-notch events, sometimes done on short notice and with little help.

SAC will be holding a special byelection for president at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Wednesday, Oct. 13.

Voting takes place between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. outside the Glendale campus library.

All students at the Glendale campus are encouraged to vote.



YOUR NEW STUDENT HEALTH PLAN

BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR STUDENT ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

FOR COMPLETE PROGRAM INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT THE SAC OFFICE AT YOUR CAMPUS AND OBTAIN A PROGRAM BOOKLET.

ALL STUDENTS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR STUDENT FEES ARE AUTOMATICALLY ENROLLED IN THIS
PROGRAM. FOR STUDENTS WITH COVERAGE ELSEWHERE, YOU MAY HAVE TO OPT-OUT BY SHOWING PROOF OF ALTERNATIVE COVERAGE. TO OPT-OUT, GO TO THE SAC OFFICE AT YOUR CAMPUS BEFORE OCTOBER 8 AND OBTAIN AN OPT-OUT FORM.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE HEALTH PLAN ADMINISTRATOR KAREN MARASCO AT EXTENSION 6440.

SAC

Attendance at SAC events to be this year's top priority

By PENNI LAFLEUR
Staff Writer

Although separated by distances at three campuses, Niagara College's student council representatives plan to stand united in boosting attendance at events sponsored by Student Administrative Council (SAC) and offering non-academic entertainment venues.

Among these will be special bus excursions with subsidized transportation and admission costs, themed event weeks and, at Niagara Falls, a search for calendar models.

At the Maid of the Mist Centre for Hospitality and Tourism, Andrea Bowman laughs when she says one of her roles as SAC president is to "keep my VPs in line." Bowman, 25, of St. Catharines, is a second-year Tourism program student.

Aside from the traditional duties of attending meetings, updating the off-campus housing list and ticket sales, Bowman says her personal goal is to "get more people out (to, and) more participation" in SAC events. Unfortunately, she says, that campus doesn't have enough students for an on-campus pub, but she hopes to get the "number of students up" to attend SAC-sponsored events.

Pub nights are held every Wednesday at the Daily Planet, on Queen Street, in Niagara Falls. In addition to the 400 students who attend the campus, the invitation is open to all Niagara College students. Students who show proof of student identification at the door will have the cover charge waived. The Daily Planet offers beverage specials, and a deejay supplies the music.

Stefan Struk, 19, of St. Catharines, a second-year Culinary Management program student, is the vice-president of campus affairs.

Struk says one of the SAC excursions planned includs a ticket to a Blue Jays versus Cleveland baseball game in Toronto on Sept. 24 for $2. The 45 tickets available (one busload) sold out quickly. Tickets for Paramount Canada's Wonderland are available from SAC for $18 for Oct. 2 only. However, transportation is not provided.

Rick Denham, 24, of St. Catharines, a second-year Hotel Restaurant Management program student and vice-president of campus events, says the three campus SAC representatives "all work together" to plan events. He says he's planning to arrange a trip to the World Wrestling Federation meet on Saturday, Nov. 20, in Toronto. Details will be available closer to the date.

He says an "unplanned event is also in the work." He and Struk are hoping to stage a "slave auction with five girls and five guys for students to buy." Struk says, "It's definitely going to happen, most likely at the Daily Planet."

Denham says he's hoping to produce a "Maid of the Mist male calendar" by December. He also says he'd like to pose nude in front of the falls for the calendar with "nothing but a snowboard, a really big snowboard" in front of him. Proceeds from the calendar sales will go towards a year-end bash, he added.

The Glendale campus's council sub-committee consists of two representatives until a newly elected president fills the vacancy. Until then the vice-presidents will be co-ordinating planning and activities with the other two campuses.

Tonya Guthrie, 21, of Barrie, now living in St. Catharines, is this year's vice-president of campus affairs. The second-year Business--Marketing program student, says although it has no president yet, SAC has been working "tri-campusly" to get things running smoothly.

Elected president Everett Wright didn't return to Niagara this year, but Guthrie says they've been able to "work around it" until a new president is elected on Oct. 13.

Guthrie says one of her goals this year is to have "one big united student council." She says she'd like the students to be more aware of SAC and to "know that we are here for them."

"College experience isn't just about education. We plan to be the best student council Niagara College has ever seen."

Unplanned events at this time include the Air Olympics and a bus package trip to a Buffalo Bills' football game. Guthrie says the Bills trip is "in the works" and will be announced once arrangements have been made. The Air Olympics is friendly outdoor competition among students using inflatable rock climbing and other "blow-up" obstacle courses.

"We are trying to co-ordinate that with Spring Fling," she added, "and this will probably be held at the Welland campus."

Jennifer Gaboury, 19, of Welland, a second-year Business — Human Resources program student, says, as vice-president of campus events, she hopes to have a "really great year" by striving for more student awareness and involvement with SAC-organized events.

"Orientation is aimed at first-year students to make the transition easy for those right out of high school and those returning after 10 years or so. We will be planning events all year and hope the students participate tri-campusly. Our approach this year is for the three student council campuses to unite."

Although both representatives had the option to run for president, they didn't.

"The only difference is a title right now. It's not worth taking a chance on losing this position," says Gaboury.

Guthrie added, "We are really working to drop titles. The president, of course, has the traditional roles and responsibilities, but we aim for everyone to work together to organize events and affairs."

Election to be on Oct. 13

Election to be held at Glendale campus library for new president, David Seto acclaimed as VP of campus events at Welland campus

By ROBERT LAPENSÉE
Staff Writer

The school year has only just begun and already Niagara College has lost two members of its Student Administrative Council (SAC).

At the Welland campus, Brian Durocher left his position as vice-president of campus events. The Glendale campus lost its president, Everett Wright.

"I came back to school in the first week of September and on Sept. 1, I was in the office and I found out Brian left," said Jennifer Beatty, president of SAC for the Welland campus.

Durocher, who has been replaced recently by David Seto, and Wright left because of personal reasons.

"I've only met Everett a couple of times. He's the president at Glendale. I'm disappointed. He seemed like a really great guy. He had a lot of energy and a lot of good ideas for student council, but at the same time I think someone appropriate will take his place."

The vacant positions have made it tough on the remaining SAC staff.

"It's a little difficult. We are trying to run the office. There is just two of us right now — just Patricia (Pichette, vice-president of campus affairs) and myself — and it's been kind of difficult. It's been a little hectic the first week," said Beatty.

SAC will be holding a byelection on Oct. 13. The Welland campus election has been cancelled since Seto was acclaimed, but voting will still take place between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. outside the library at Glendale campus.

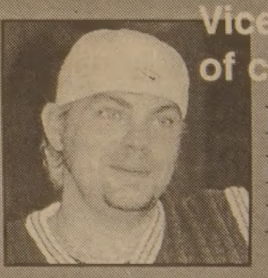
Meet SAC

Welland Campus President
Jennifer Beatty
Human Relations program

Vice-president of campus affairs
Patricia Pichette
Human Relations program

Vice-president of campus events
David Seto
General Arts and Science program

Maid of the Mist Centre President
Andrea Bowman
Tourism program



Vice-president of campus events
Rick Denham
Hotel Restaurant Management program

Vice-president of campus affairs
Stefan Struk
Culinary Management program

Glendale campus Vice-president of campus events
Jennifer Gaboury
Business—Human Resources program

Vice-president of campus affairs
Tonya Guthrie
Business—Marketing program

Don't forget to vote!

EDITORIAL

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of
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Chasing a peerage

It doesn't make sense.

The quarrel, that is, between media mogul Conrad Black and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien over whether it was or was not unfair, illegal, unconstitutional, whatever, for Chrétien to have ruled that Black cannot become a British lord and still remain a Canadian citizen.

Black doesn't want to be Canadian. He doesn't identify with Canadian unity. He says Canadian identity realizes itself through social programs, such as health care, and "we make too much of our role as peacekeepers." He's more concerned with globalization, free trade, the free market, minimal government and minimal taxes. In other words, he thinks Canadians should be more like Americans — taking care of No. 1.

Barbara Amiel, Black's wife and a noted columnist, says Black wasn't going to chase a title. She says Black only wants the title to enable him to engage in parliamentary debates that have real substance, in the House of Lords. He cares about policy issues.

To my knowledge Black has never revealed why he wants it so badly.

Amiel also says Black sent off a letter to a British supporter lobbying for a title for him to say he would never accept any honour that required him to compromise the independence of his newspaper, the *Telegraph*. The offer was withdrawn.

Now the only thing standing between him and his title is an 80-year-old parliamentary decree: the 1919 Nickle resolution, which asked the Crown not to bestow foreign titles on subjects normally living in Canada. The policy, however, did not refer to titles for those with dual citizenship, which Black has quickly obtained.

He and Amiel maintain that if only he'd schmoozed with the Liberal Party of Canada and sat more to the left in his views and his editorials in the *Telegraph*, resolutions would be amended, mountains would be moved, time would stand still . . . he'd get anything he desired.

Chrétien isn't what stands in his way. Regardless of Chrétien's motives, the resolution is a reflection of what it means to be Canadian. Truly proud Canadians don't need or want titles. Separation of the classes has always been British fashion.

The man lives in Britain and seems to have a passion for everything non-Canadian, so why not just drop the Canadian citizenship and fulfil the fantasy.

He won't because he'd have to give up all ownership in Canadian newspapers. That law is one I think all Canadians would actually go to war to defend. The control this man has on the livelihood of some of this country's most talented journalists is disheartening. Black's quest for power, en route to privilege, may just be what holds him back from his place in British society.

It seems as if you're caught in a dilemma here, Mr. Black. If obtaining a peerage means relinquishing some of the power, take it as a sign. Anything worth having is worth the sacrifice.

Give us back our newspaper industry and we'll call you by any name you like.

Penni Lafleur

Les, we forget

Since the heady days of Lester Pearson, Canadians have been proud of their peacekeeping commitments, and justifiably so.

Korea, the Suez, Cyprus and Bosnia are just a few of the many places two generations of our finest ambassadors have walked a thin and dangerous line between warring factions.

While these silent heroes of our peace — the men and women of our armed forces — have never let us down, we, as Canadians, are letting them down.

Governments of every political stripe have, over the past 20 years, allowed our military to decay to the point of Third World status.

At the same time, the end of the Cold War has brought new and more difficult deployments, stretching our armed forces to the breaking point.

Even as this newspaper goes to print, a small contingent of Canadians is making its way to yet another trouble spot — this time in East Timor. The two C-130 Hercules transports that carry them are older than the pilots who fly them. Even our world-renowned "Snowbirds" aerobatics team flies Tudor jets.

If we are to continue to send our troops into harm's way, we must be prepared to support them by providing them with the tools they need to do their jobs. Let us not forget it is their lives that are in our hands.

John Robbins

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study. All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only. All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland campus.

COMMENTARY

Clones: ultimate renewable resource

By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

Cloning.

I've just realized we've discovered the solution to all the world's problems, and frankly I'm beside myself.

After years of useless widgets of infomercial fame, those cerebrally blessed, white-coated, pocket-protected whiz-kids I used to bully milk money from in grade school have finally outdone themselves.

Yeah, clones, I say.

Too young to buy shares in Microsoft and too stupid to cash in on Bre-X before that unfortunate helicopter incident, this Gen-X'er is getting in on the ground floor.

Allow me to give you a little background while I call my stockbroker.

For those of you who have never met a Liberal backbencher, clones are genetically engineered facsimiles of life just waiting to be exploited by the business elite.

Sure, cloning has existed in theory for about a century, but only recently has it been put into practice. You may remember "Dolly," the first mammal to be cloned. Well, I'll promise you what comes next will make cloning sheep look like a fifth-grade science fair project.

Court whittles away its session looking for some irrelevant precedent, the private sector will be the first to see this manna for what it really is.

After all, cloning is a license to print money.

I can see it now. T'is the night before Christmas and throngs of blurry-eyed parents shuffle, zombie-like, in all-night lineups in front of Wal-Mart to get their kids the perfect knock-off.

T'is the night before Christmas and throngs of blurry-eyed parents shuffle, zombie-like, in all-night lineups in front of Wal-Mart to get their kids the perfect knock-off.

"Come on! Answer the phone will you."

If I seem a little edgy, it's because I know it won't be long before idealism gives way to pragmatism and I lose my monopoly in this Brave New World. While others debate, I must act.

While the politicians set terms of reference for a Royal Commission on quasi-reproductive technologies, and the Supreme

Forget about Tickle-Me-Elmo. Every kid will want Ditto-the-Clone.

The next thing you know . . .

Cha-ching!

That sound, my friends, ends the moral and ethical debate.

Then it will be too late. The perfect logic of my sure thing will lie in the open — like carrion — for all to pick away.

Cash-strapped governments everywhere will go wild. Just think of the head tax. Our national debt will be paid down in no time. Laid-off civil servants, who for years have specialized in duplication and redundancy, will be brought back to run the pilot project.

Who could be against such a thing?

Not the environmentalists.

Clones are the ultimate renewable resource: biodegradable and non-toxic.

Corporations will see their payrolls drop, while union memberships skyrocket.

Freshly minted lawyers will be tripping over their robes, rushing to set up practices specializing in copyright.

Everyone will want in on this one.

Finally, someone answers the phone.

"ABC Investments. How may I help you?" I hear an oddly familiar voice say.

That's strange. I know that voice. Could it be? It is!

Overcome by the most peculiar identity crisis imaginable, I must concede my defeat. I'm too late.

"Hey you," I say. "Is that me?"

Different treatments for health

By MANDI SPEELMAN
Staff Writer

We are now starting to listen to what our bodies are saying and how they want to be healed.

From acupuncture (first used in China) to treat arthritis, to reflexology, which is done through pressing on certain points in the hands and feet to help treat different parts of the body, we no longer rely just on traditional medical techniques.

How could alternative medicine be considered "new age" when its methods have been used for thousands of years?

We are now discovering these different techniques to better our health.

Recently I have been reading a lot of articles on alternative medicines. It amazes me that so many people are now opening their eyes to the fact natural treatments lead to natural healing. It all makes sense to me though.

Through sound therapy, soothing sounds can make us calm. Our heart beats more slowly and this can lower blood pressure.

Through light therapy, I feel safe and less anxious since I can see what is around me; therefore, I am happier and my body's at ease. It gets deeper than that for those who have far more serious health problems.

Whether it's for getting rid of acne or just getting rid of a cold, there are a lot of different herbal remedies one can take.

I do advise you not to substitute your medication with an herbal supplement before asking. It is wise to speak with your physician or a professional in the alternative medicine area before wanting to try anything. It's not like taking candy.

Another thing to remember although the medicine is from a natural source, taking too much of it at once can lead to sickness, the same as conventional medicine can. Doctors were once looked up to as gods since they seemed to know more about our bodies than we did. Those days are over, I hope.

How could alternative medicine be considered 'new age' when its methods have been used for thousands of years?

I feel more comfortable when takeing something natural than taking something that has a Latin name I don't recognize. I'm always curious about what is in my medicine, since there usually are side effects to go along with it. What is it really putting my body through?

If you decide to take an alternative medicine, read up on what treatment you're most interested in. That way you know what you're getting yourself into and what would be best for you.

There are a lot of herbs listed on the Internet or at a health food store to tell you what they help cure. One good site is OnHealth.com. Give your body a treat!

Mooning the Phantom

By LISA TAFT
Staff Writer

Most people laugh when I share this embarrassing moment with them. Fortunately, it's been two years since it happened, long enough for me to find the humour in it too.

I received a Christmas present from my boyfriend: two front row tickets to see the stage play, The Phantom of the Opera. All of my friends had seen it in elementary school, but my parents couldn't afford to send me.

. . . the woman leaving ahead of me had toilet paper stuck to her shoe. I would have told her, had it not been so funny.

Wearing a spaghetti strap, above-the-knee dress and heels, I sat in awe for the first half of the play. It was a special night for me. The intermission was an event in itself.

Imagine being the last woman in line for the ladies' room. Remember that I had to come from the front row. After waiting for the entire 20-minute intermission in the lineup, I had about two minutes left to get in and out.

As I hurried to beat the flashing lights that signaled the start of the second half of the show, I noticed that the woman leaving ahead of me had toilet paper stuck to her shoe. I would have told her, had it not been so funny. We slipped through the auditorium doors just in time and she found her seat quickly.

I, on the other hand, had to make it past 2,269 people without appearing to be in too much of a hurry. As an inexperienced heel walker, I decided it would be safer for me to take my time. I wouldn't want anything embarrassing to happen to me in front of all of those people.

Finally I made it to my seat. As I reached back to tuck my dress underneath me, I realized that there was nothing to tuck!

While hurrying in the washroom, I had pulled my nylons right over the back of my dress. I had mooned the entire Pantages Theatre.

For a long time I wouldn't tell anyone that story. Thankfully, I can laugh about it now. I hope you enjoyed it.

Socializing great way to make brand new friends

By MIRANDA HUBBS
Staff Writer

Starting college can be a very nerve-wracking experience: new school, new teachers, and (of course, the big one) making new friends.

It's always difficult making new friends; you never know what to say or how to act for fear they might not like you. That experience happened to me.

I was very nervous on my first day at Niagara College. It didn't help that I'm naturally shy. I had a very lonely first two months. However, I worked through it and was finally able to make friends. Now I am having more fun and enjoying my time at college.

I wouldn't want to see someone else go through that experience. There are three things I'd tell someone who has a hard time making friends.

First, be yourself. I know you want to make a good first impression but that doesn't mean you need to pretend to be someone you're not. People have a way of recognizing a phony. Besides, it's too hard to keep up the act and that effort can cause extra stress. If people don't like you for who you are, they weren't worthy of being a friend anyway.

Next, you must socialize. Getting out is a great way to meet people. College campuses sometime have their own pubs. Here at Niagara College's Welland campus we have an on-campus pub just steps from the residence and the main complex. Every week there is something going on there.

Wednesday nights are Comedy Nights with comedians from all over, and Thursdays are pub nights. Often there are bands that come in to perform. Take advantage of these nights and you are bound to make friends fast.

Finally, get involved, There are lots of activities around the college in which to be involved. My favourite is sports. Playing on a team helped me to make friends and to learn to work with others.

Getting involved with other activities looks good on your resume and can help with employment opportunities later. Teamwork skills are marketable.

Your college years are supposed to be the best years, so don't let shyness or anything else get in your way of having a good time. Don't forget about your grades, though.

EYE ON NIAGARA

President looking forward to improvements

By MARTIN MCQUAIG
Staff Writer

As the 1999 fall term gets under way, Niagara College President Dan Patterson is concentrating his efforts on ensuring "each of the three campuses has its own uniqueness and identity that we can all be proud of."

After a successful start to the new Glendale campus in 1998, he is setting course for improvements to the Welland campus and Maid of the Mist Centre.

"I was really amazed at how well we were able to get (the Glendale campus) jumpstarted in an extraordinarily short period of time," said Patterson, who adds the development of the new campus has been a "special journey" for him.

Patterson says the Welland campus community can look forward to $16 million worth of improvements including a police training facility set to begin in Spring 2000. There are also plans to break ground on a new cafeteria in December 2000.

The Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls has once again expanded its Hospitality and Tourism program, a big reason for the planned expansion of the campus into a two-level facility. Patterson says he hopes the college can secure the funds through the Super Build Fund, an initiative of the Ontario government. He says the hospitality and tourism industry is growing in the Niagara Peninsula. Casinos, five-star hotels and the recent World Rowing Championships and says Patterson, "tourism has a great potential in the region to be a great source of wealth and jobs." This year Niagara has launched two new post-graduate programs related to the industry: Hotel Management Systems and Tourism Development.

Patterson says he is encouraged to see many more international students coming to Niagara. He says it fits with the college's goal of more international ventures under his philosophy of "the classroom is the world."

Patterson says international delegates are touring the Glendale campus daily. Their interest, he says, is all part of Niagara College's emergence as one of the highest recognized colleges in Ontario. Patterson adds grants, such as last spring's $1.6 million towards the Centre for Integrated Manufacturing Training and Applied Research, were made possible because Glendale is a "world-class facility."

Patterson says it is important not to lose the main objective at the college, that "the interface between teacher and student will decide how good an institution you have." He says Niagara still "stresses practical training for the world of work."

One thing Patterson would like to see in the coming year is better turnouts at President's Advisory Forums, which he set up for students to confront him on issues concerning them. Although the president's office widely advertised the meetings, student attendance was very low last year.

Culinary Management students change stereotypes in the kitchen

By LISA TAFT
Staff Writer

The Culinary Management program students at Niagara College's Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls give a new twist to student cooking.

The stereotypes of what a college student's kitchen may look like change with this course.

Culinary Management program students are partly graded on the quality of the food they prepare and how well they clean up after themselves. They learn theories of baking and cooking as well as nutritional awareness.

It's an elective taught by chef David Moore, in which students are taught how to cook and eat healthfully.

"The chefs and professors are very helpful," says James Lafstrom, 28, of Niagara Falls.

In past years students used kitchens of hotels such as the Sheraton Foxhead in Niagara Falls but now have their own at the Maid of the Mist campus and "the facilities are A-1," says chef Stanley West, who has been teaching for 24 years.

Classrooms are equipped with mixers, proofers, cutting tables, ovens, stoves, pots and pans, all required utensils and chalkboards — everything, it seems, including the kitchen sink.

Lab fees cover the cost of the ingredients. When the ovens are empty students take their fresh-baked goods home with them: tea biscuits, chocolate-chip cookies, Black Forest cake, Dutch cherry torte, glazed carrots and beer steak among others.

With the skills acquired during this co-op course, graduates are qualified for jobs such as line and prep cooks, catering and baking, as well as many other kitchen or restaurant positions.

A taste of some of the Culinary Management program students' work will be available at an awards dinner to be held at the Maid of the Mist campus on Dunn Street in Niagara Falls on Oct. 4.

Also, the students will help with a medieval dinner on Nov. 6 at Ridley College for the St. Catharines General Hospital's Breakthrough Health Care fund-raiser.

An Open Letter to Students

Help keep our college an attractive place to learn!

I want to take this opportunity to formally welcome you to Niagara College for the 1999/2000 academic year. Our dedicated staff work hard to ensure your experience at Niagara is positive, and one that leads to academic and career success. This is the last year of the millennium, and we want to make it the best ever for all of you.

I also want to share an important message with you regarding our physical facilities. I do not need to tell you how important clean and attractive facilities are to the quality of your learning experience. In fact, many of you have taken the time in the past to share with me your concerns regarding the comfort and cleanliness of some of our classrooms and other facilities.

Many of you are also aware of the tremendous financial investments that have been put into our facilities and equipment in recent years. These include the new Glendale campus and many new and renovated classrooms in Welland and at the Maid of the Mist Centre, and especially for this year, our newly renovated Hamilton Room in Welland.

We all take pride in the improved facilities for our students, and want to keep them fresh and attractive for as long as possible. As students, you have a very important role to play in helping to keep your campus clean and attractive.

I would like to remind you that college policy does not permit eating and drinking in classrooms. This policy exists to ensure an attractive learning environment and to prevent, in the long run, the deterioration of costly facilities. When your professors do not allow food or drink in the classroom, they are simply enforcing a college policy that benefits us all, and I ask you to please cooperate.

Your assistance in keeping our college clean for all of us to enjoy is very much appreciated.

Once again, best wishes for a memorable and rewarding year.

Sincerely,

Dan Patterson, President

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

EYE ON NIAGARA

Learning about Alzheimer's over coffee

By MEGAN ROSS
Staff Writer

A Coffee Break that was held at the Welland campus on Sept. 23 to help raise money for the Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region, brought in $267.90.

Coffee Break is a registered trademark of the Alzheimer Society. It is an annual fund-raiser held across Canada to support the programs and services of local Alzheimer Society chapters.

According to Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to Niagara College President Dan Patterson, the college was asked to host a Coffee Break. Neufeld, having been involved with the society in the past, volunteered to organize it.

Problems encountered with Alzheimer's come from 'our inability to understand their behaviour . . . '

— Marge Dempsey

Alzheimer's is a progressive disease affecting the brain. People with it lose short-term memory and eventually forget how to take care of themselves as well as no longer recognize family members and friends.

Neufeld said the Coffee Break provides an opportunity for the college staff to get together and participate in some refreshments and fun. All food was donated by Aramark Food Services.

Some of the main things that Neufeld said he hopes to accomplish are to provide education on Alzheimer's, to provide an opportunity to contribute to the cause, to show support for the cause and to bring the staff together.

Neufeld invited Marge Dempsey to the event to make a short speech on the subject, since she is the founder of the Coffee Break.

Dempsey, 55, is the director of the Family Support Program for the Alzheimer Society of Niagara. She first discovered the idea for the Coffee Break in Ireland and brought it back to Canada. All the donations from the fund-raiser are sent to the local chapter of the society.

Dempsey gave a 10-minute speech on the disease and said she wanted to "thank everyone for his or her interest in families who are caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease."

She said she hopes the Coffee Breaks will "help boost a bit of the awareness of the disease itself."

Her speech was about the changes that Alzheimer's make on a person and family, and other types of dementia that affect the elderly.

Speaking with her was Fred Sullivan, the president of the Alzheimer Society of Niagara.

Dempsey said she thinks "students should care about this (Alzheimer's), because everyone is goingto be touched in some way by the disease."

The best way to help someone you love, she said, is to know about the disease. She added that "the population of Niagara is aging, and there's going be a significant increase of people and that this will affect us all, in terms of tax dollars and caring for the population."

Problems encountered with those with Alzheimer's, according to Dempsey, come from "our inability to understand their behaviours, because as they are losing their ability to think clearly and to be engaged in purposeful and meaningful activities (in very ineffective ways sometimes), it interferes with other people, and causes them to be restive and resentful of people trying to interfere with them."

Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College, greets Fred Sullivan, president of the Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region and Marge Dempsey, guest speaker at the Coffee Break.

Photo by Megan Ross

Satisfaction survey helps college

BY SHANNON PALOMAKI
Staff Writer

Finding a way to make Niagara College better takes a lot of time and effort to gather opinions from students.

Key Performancé Indicators (KPIs), one of which is student satisfaction, are a way that "helps colleges, students and the public to understand what colleges do and how effective we are in doing it," says Brigitte Chiki, the college's director of student services.

The survey gives students beyond term one an opportunity to suggest five additional questions to the survey and to respond to those questions.

Chiki says Niagara College's internal KPI committee "felt the three questions related to student government, orientation and quality of life" were important enough to stay on as questions used year after year.

Niagara College was "certainly pleased" with the results from last year, Chiki says. "No college scored perfect." There are 24 colleges in Ontario.

The provincial government introduced the KPIs as a means to ensure accountability within the college system on delivering the skills employers, students and graduates feel are useful.

Each college has an opportunity to look at some areas that need improvement or at least need a closer look "according to the students," Chiki says.

It is up to each area of the college "where the jurisdiction falls" to sit down with those students and ask what elements can be improved.

The survey has added a new feature for co-op and special needs students.

Co-op students will be able to participate in the survey in November instead of missing it in February 2000 because they will be out on placement.

Students with special needs can take the survey with enlarged text or with a notetaker to help get their input.

The college-wide survey "takes a lot of time" between promotions, picking classes in which to administer them, getting student volunteers and keeping track of surveys.

"We plan it as an event. We get excited about it, for sure," says Chiki.

The results take about two months to come in, "which is a long time to wait" for a report on how the college is doing, from the students' perspective.

Chiki says it gives the college "building blocks for the next year."

KPIs affect how much funding the college will get. If the results of the survey are good, more funding will be received for the general operating budget.

"It's an initiative . . . our college's challenge," says Chiki.

New marketing manager looks forward to contributing to college

By VICKI HARTLEN
Staff Writer

Staff members in Niagara College's marketing department have welcomed a new manager.

Judy Willems, 45, of St. Catharines, has filled the position of manager, communications and publications, at the college's Welland campus.

"The job is great," said Willems. "Everybody is very nice and it's an exciting place to be."

Willems will be working with a team of colleagues to co-ordinate the efforts of the college's Marketing and Communications Department.

A graduate of the University of Winnipeg, Willems said she feels qualified to handle the challenge of her job.

Willems says she's to be involved in "every publication you see about Niagara College."

This includes newsletters, brochures, advertisements, annual reports and special event promotions.

As for any changes, Willems said, "I'm not planning any changes. It's just an opportunity for me to offer some guidance and to put my experience to work."

Some of Willems's previous experience is in marketing for broadcasting and eight years of marketing programs and services with the Business Education Council of Niagara.

"I have a lot of enthusiasm and excitement for what's going on here," said Willems.

"So what I'm hoping I can contribute is a leadership role in providing a good marketing service to all the programs of the college."

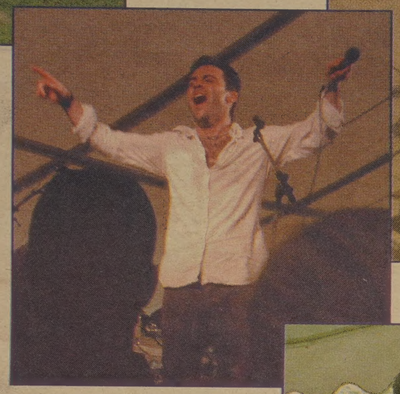
Did you know?

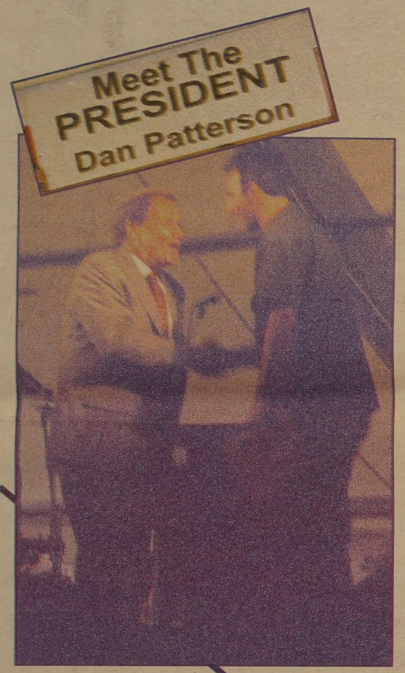
Niagara College offers professional, confidential counselling, health and peer services.

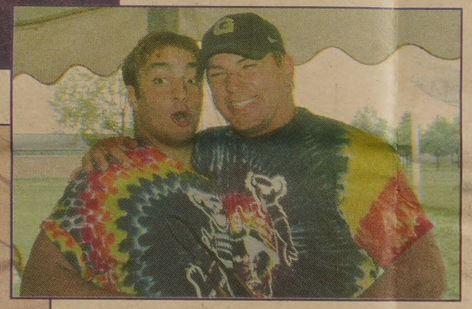
Resources are available in SE102 at the Welland Campus
W102 at the Glendale Campus.

Health Centre services are provided by Registered Nurses.
Drop in to see Carolyn Hurst at Welland Campus L20 or
Christine Philbrick at Glendale Campus in W105.

Crashing into Orientation '99







photos by
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ORIENTATION

Orientation equals entertainment

Brad Roberts and the rest of Crash Test Dummies played Niagara College's Orientation at the Welland campus on Sept. 9.

Photo by Mark Garrett

College students enjoy loud, raucous music at Orientation '99

By CRAIG STRATYCHUK and MARK GARRETT
Staff Writers

Dummies, freaks and (not to mention) students, came out to kick off the year at Orientation 1999.

On Sept. 9, students from all campuses assembled at the Welland campus to celebrate Orientation and the year ahead.

Headlining for Orientation was Canada's own Crash Test Dummies. A collage of sideshow acts, such as Fire Guy and Captain Oliver Childs, also performed.

The Crash Test Dummies were not available for comment because they had to catch a quick flight from Toronto to Halifax, N.S. Dave Rapelje, manager of After Hours, spoke directly to Brad Roberts, lead singer of the band.

The band members themselves were excited about playing in Welland for one reason: "The manager of the band for the last 10 years was born and raised here," said Rapelje.

Roberts said he was "creeped out," by the idea of it being a day show, but was reassured when the band took to the stage and saw the enthusiasm and excitement under the tent.

The Dummies' performance was solid. They played a mix of their old and new songs and enlightened the crowd with their own rendition of a Brittney Spears song.

Despite the rain, Rapelje said the students were "ecstatic" and were really "into" the show.

Dummies' performance was solid

Jason Haskett-Kennedy, 18, of Waterford, a Law and Security Administration program student, said, "The show was loud and sweet. The crowd was really into it."

Michelle Coneau, 20, a Legal Assistant (Co-op) program student at the Welland campus, said, "The show was great, loud and noisy. It was awesome."

Before the Dummies took the stage, a mix of sideshow acts circulated throughout the tent to keep the crowd entertained. Acts such as Captain Oliver Childs walked and mingled about the tent towing a toy tugboat

'This is the most successful Orientation.'
—Dave Rapelje

The Fire Guy, named Brant Matthews, thrilled the crowd with his spectacular fire-handling abilities and jester-like antics.

To put on a show of this calibre, Rapelje and his crew started working on getting the acts together in April.

"This is the most successful Orientation," said Rapelje, "even bigger than the year the Barenaked Ladies were here."

Orientation takes a lot of hard work and planning

By JENNIFER MAGO
Staff Writer

Orientation for first-year students is about making them feel comfortable and getting them the right information, as soon as possible.

For the organizers, it's about hard work and dedication.

Jen Gordon 18, of Creemore, Ont., an Early Childhood Education program student, said, "Absolutely amazing. They put a lot of work into it, and it turned out really good. This school deserves a lot of credit for what they've done. They've really helped us out. Everyone's getting to know each other today and it's really fun."

Orientation is the college helping the students to be successful, so the responsibility of getting it together goes to student services, the manager of the Student's Centre, the liaison coordinator, the Student Administrative Council (SAC) and the student body.

"We draw in different departments as required, so when we're planning the information programs we draw in counselling and health services," said Brigitte Chiki, 41, the college's director of Student Services.

Chiki said she felt happy to report that a huge part of the team was students. The 50 students who worked on Orientation Day took tickets, set up the stage, cooked and cleaned afterwards.

"We couldn't do without them, that's for sure," said Chiki.

Planning for Orientation starts the day after the last Orientation. The organizers sit down to see what did and didn't work and what improvements could be made for next year.

"Planning is something we do year-round. Even though to a student it looks like a one-year event, it actually includes a lot of other components," said Chiki.

Included in all first-year students' tuition is a $26 fee for Orientation. The balance of $26 times about 3,000 first-year students goes to entertainment, food and promotion.

In its current format, the circus atmosphere during Orientation has been around for at least 10 years. About seven or eight years ago, Orientation activities were held in the cafeteria or gym.

"The circus atmosphere is always more effective, especially in week one when students are still excited from their summer and certainly excited about starting college," said Chiki.

To find out how many first-year students attended Orientation, students were asked to fill out a registration form and drop it into a ballot box. This year's participation percentage was 53 per cent for all three campuses. The percentages were different for each program. Some programs were as high as 77 per cent, while a couple of programs were as low as zero per cent.

"Our expectations were, first of all, that we get as many students out as possible. We have a campus at Glendale (in Niagara-on-the-Lake) and the Maid of the Mist Centre (in Niagara Falls). Drawing those students in was our biggest challenge," said Chiki.

To make studdent participation easier, there was transportation by bus to the two campuses away from the Orientation.

The organizers faced many challenges, from getting the students transportation, to food and entertainment. The most important challenge, said Chiki, will always be to get as many students there as possible.

"It's really crowded," said Gary Richardson, 19, of Kitchener, a student in the Paramedic program.

Chiki said to prevent crowding in the future, they may be able to put smaller tents outside the large tent for registration and for students to pick up their Orientation kits.

"It's busy, but that's kind of fun," said Megan Winter, 20, a student in the Art and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production program.

Students wowed by entertainers, prizes, musicians

BY SHANNON PALOMAKI
Staff Writer

Let the year begin!

Orientation for Niagara College's Welland campus took place on Sept. 9.

St. Catharines' 97.7 HTZ FM radio station hosted the festivities with prize giveaways, such as a Sanyo VCR, a toaster oven, a set of the Collector's Edition Britannica CD-ROM Encyclopedia and a car stereo.

Greg Maissan, 21, a first-year Electrical Engineering program student, won a Sony PlayStation for singing Oh Canada on stage to the crowd

Attractions inside and around the tent included Kristi Heath (a.k.a. Madame Butterfly), 32, walked around dressed as a ballerina on stilts.

Brant Matthews, 26, known as "The Fire Guy," entertained the crowd with his skills of throwing fire around on a rope and stick. On his way out of the tent, Matthews said, "The goat got there before I did. If you hear anything about it, the goat was here before I was. Anything after that I was drunk."

Fire Guy performs

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) hired both.

Students cheered while Crash Test Dummies played. First-year students Godfred Kubi, 19, a Computer Engineering program student, Mark Addo, 20, and Yaw Ofori, 18, Electrical Engineering program students all from Toronto, agreed this year's orientation was "cool."

Helping to dish out the food and beverages were Recreation and Leisure program students Andrew Rivers, 19, Ryan Nava, 22. Kedra Glover, 20, a Law and Security Administration (LASA) program student and Diane Vanderhoven, 19, a Social Service Worker program student.

Rocky Newton, 20, a LASA program student, assisted by offering milk tabs asking, "Want a milk tab? It would be really cool if you had one."

CAMPUS COVERAGE

Green thumbs sprout at Glendale campus

By MATT HOLLEY
Staff Writer

The growing season at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake never stops.

Tom Ball, co-ordinator of the Horticulture Technician program and Landscape Technician program, says students work all year in the greenhouse at the rear of the campus.

"Right now we've got the fall mum sales on, and of course we'll have the poinsettias for Christmas," says Ball.

The plants sold are grown in the greenhouse, and all money from the sales goes back into the program, says Ball.

"We're trying to get more of a mix of plants out there so we can sell more to the public."

Students in the Horticulture Technician program learn the basics of greenhouse management, grounds maintenance and landscape planning. Those in the Landscape Technician program take most of the same first-year courses as the Horticulture Technician program students, but in their second year move into applied construction and computerized drafting, says Ball.

"Ultimately they'll be vying for the same jobs."

Graduates tend to work for nurseries, greenhouses, golf courses, landscape companies, parks departments and florist shops in the Niagara region and throughout the country.

"Landscaping in the Niagara region is the same as landscaping in Toronto or Edmonton, so they can go anyplace they want," says Ball.

The Glendale campus is a living lab. Built over 27.5 hectares it houses the college's horticulture and landscape programs. The 25,000-square-foot greenhouse has state-of-the-art climate controls, including a teaching lab and classroom.

Students in the Horticulture Technician program and Landscaping Technician program are in charge of doing a lot of the grounds work around the campus.

"The contractor put in the initial bare bones and our students worked both in their summer co-op and now practical horticulture classes working on the grounds," says Ball.

Students design the flowerbeds, plant the flowers and do other work on the campus as well. Ball says that in the years to come the students will be taking on more responsibilities around the campus.

A new student residence being built will be placed in the northeast corner of the property. Although there has been no exact ruling on who will care for the grounds surrounding the residence, Ball says his students will be involved to an extent.

Students in these programs are taught the safe use of pesticides and other chemicals used in the horticulture industry.

Ball says in the cultural, mechanical, physical, biological, and chemical classes integrated pest control is taught.

"Very often horticulture gets accused of not being environmentally friendly because we use pesticides and invasive species," he says.

Invasive species are plant species not native to the region. For example, the Norway maple spreads by seeds at a fast rate and can crowd out native trees.

Ball says horticulturists have to be careful and sometimes rethink some of the plantings that are made and the effect that they will have on the environment.

Because of growth in the horticulture and landscape industry, these programs are set well to grow in the new millennium, he added.

Two new post-grad programs at Niagara College

By SHANNON MASTALER
Staff Writer

Two new post-graduate programs at Niagara College make it possible for students to get the experience and knowledge they need.

The new programs offered are Hotel Management Systems, which started in September, and Tourism Development, which starts in January.

"I am very excited about this," said Dave Berry, co-ordinator of the programs.

Hotel Management Systems places emphasis on management concepts and technological tools. "The students do all of their work on a lap-top computer," said Berry.

Hotel Management Systems and Tourism Development

"They are technologically advanced."

In the first term, students work in class. In second term, they are involved in a mentor project. "The student will get lots of hands-on experience," said Berry.

"This course is very specific to the hotel industry, whereas Tourism Development looks at tourism in general," said Berry.

Berry said the demand for a program such as Tourism Development is high in the Niagara region. "A whole class has already been confirmed for January start."

Berry said the course will give a business aspect to tourism. "It will make the students aware of how to run a business associated with tourism."

Students will work on creating a business plan. "The plan will develop into a profitable business," said Berry. "It will encourage (them) and demonstrate to people how to run a successful business."

First term consists of in-class campus work. In second term, students work off campus with an on-line business. "This allows the students to go to any location worldwide of their choice," said Berry.

"By keeping in touch with the students and by giving them advice, they (the students) will be able to develop their own project," said Berry. "They will develop the feasibility aspect of it."

Many Hands helping

By SHANNON MASTALER
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Special Event Management Post-graduate program is planning its third annual Many Hands project.

"Many Hands is a group of students in the Special Events Management program who do day renovations for an organization in the Niagara Region," said David Veres, co-ordinator of the Special Events Management program.

> *'It builds community pride and a sense of belonging.'*
>
> *—Dave Veres*

Veres said volunteers are used, as well as students. "It builds community pride and a sense of belonging."

Veres said students get hands-on experience in sponsorship, fundraising, marketing, press releases and public announcements. "All the elements of planning a special event are covered."

Last May, Many Hands completed a $38,000 renovation project at the Resource Association for Teens (RAFT) with the help of many sponsors. Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd. of Welland was the lead sponsor and is again this year.

"The renovations to the facility were akin to breathing new life into what we do," said Kathy Malloy, executive director of RAFT in a press release. "The effects of this project will be felt for years."

Many Hands presents an opportunity for organizations to promote themselves.

"The selected organization has a chance to get things built or renovated that they normally wouldn't be able to," said Veres. "The agency becomes better known."

An advisory committee chooses an organization from those who apply to be considered. "We have received seven applications," said Veres. On Sept. 27, students presented each application to the committee, which will make the final decision.

A date for the event cannot be made until an organization is selected. "It will probably be on a Saturday in April," said Veres.

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We are pleased to announce the creation of a new publication, "Casino News and Entertainment," set to hit shelves October 31, 1999.

Providing the people of the Niagara region & it's neighbors with *an informative and insightful view* of the Canadian gaming, entertainment, art's, tourism and hospitality community.

According to publisher, Rose Ann Stewart, the *Casino News and Entertainment philosophy is simple, "people work most of their lives and deserve to relax whether it's bingo, slots; the cultural enjoyment of the art's and theatre, or the intimacy of a quiet piano-bar."

Niagara businessman, Mark De Marco, couldn't agree more, "this is going to be a hot-bed of entertainment and opportunity for the community and we want to be Niagara's #1-information source for fun and excitement!"

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INTERNATIONAL

Niagara welcomes new ESL students

By NATSUKO TAMURA
Staff Writer

Dance, talk and laughter filled After Hours on Sept. 17.

English as a Second Language (ESL) students joined in the fun at their "Welcome Party," where they shared new experiences.

Food prepared by the teachers included heaps of chicken wings and hundreds of pizza squares, all of which satisfied the many hungry students who enjoyed volleyball and soccer before the party.

A new Japanese student, Aki Sasahara, 20, says she likes Canada because there are "lots of kinds of people. I can learn a lot of things."

Maria Seles Teles, 30, of Venezuela, says she's enjoying her life in Canada.

'It's good for students to get to know each other outside the classroom.
—Joanne Klassen

"It's very nice and safe. I have many opportunities to speak English and it's wonderful," adding it's important to be open-minded.

In Canada for a month, Joana Rivadeneyra, 19, of Mexico, says everything's different from what she is used to. "I want to know more about Canadian people." She says she's having a hard time with her eating habits since in her country it's customary to eat four meals a day.

Fiona Shen, from Taiwan, is in her second term in the ESL program. Seeing the huge number of students this term, she says she prefers a smaller group because "it's hard to get to know everyone in this big group."

'It's very nice and safe. I have many opportunities to speak English and it's wonderful.'
—Maria Seles Teles

When the food began to get cold, some students climbed up to the stage and played a true or false quiz, hosted by Christie Salmon, an ESL teacher. All the trivia was based on ESL teachers' personal anecdotes.

The winners, Mami Sagata, 24, and Emiko Yano, 24, from Japan, got T-shirts as prizes. "I'm so happy," says Sagata, who has been studying in ESL for nine months.

After the quiz, the front stage swarmed with dancing people. The South Americans took the initiative, teaching dance moves to everyone.

ESL teacher Joanne Klassen, 24, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, the main organizer of the party, says it's an "initiating" event. "It's good for students to get to know each other outside the classroom," she says.

"It's so organized, and students are willing to enjoy the party," says Betty Ann Chandler, an ESL teacher.

The students had a good time meeting new people and getting to know each other.

First row from the left, Karen Castaneda, from Colombia, Diego Alvarez, from Venezuela, Kim Smith, ESL teacher, Vanessa Skrairka, Delvalle Sanabria, from Venezuela. Second row from the right, Kumiko Yamaguchi, from Japan, Maria Seles Teles, Manuel Montero, from Venezuela, pose for a photo at the welcome party.

Photo by Natsuko Tamura

ESL makes history

By NATSUKO TAMURA
Staff Writer

Sized up, mixed up and tuned up!

Niagara College's English as a Second Language program (ESL) has made history.

This is the first time the program has had 87 students from countries worldwide. It's a real variety: Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Chile, Venezuela, Libya, Italy, Germany, China, Taiwan, Korea and Japan. The number of students is more than double compared with the average annual enrolment.

"It's nice to have a mix of nationalities. It's exciting," says Susan Vandenboom, the ESL co-ordinator, adding they welcomed students from Chile for the first time. She says the number of students from countries in South America, such as Colombia and Venezuela, has increased as a result of more promotions and contact between Niagara College and those countries.

Vandenboom has been program co-ordinator since 1991. In 1989, ESL started from a shabby portable behind Hennepin Hall with eight to 10 students. She says it was totally different from today's facilities.

Located in S102 at the Welland campus, the recently renovated office provides a comfortable and friendly environment. After 10 years, the program is in full bloom.

"It's wow," says Sean Coote, 26, of Welland, who has been international student adviser for five years.

"It's very nice to have new, bigger and improved work space," Vandenboom says.

"Everything's so organized. I'm impressed," says Vergilio Barbosa, 21, of Brazil.

Along with the growing number of students, staff was added. Eleven full and part-time instructors run six sections of classes.

'It's nice to have a mix of nationalities. It's exciting.'
—Susan Vandenboom

Tara Storoni, 26, of Welland, works as an assistant for Coote. Stephanie Soccio-Marandola, 30, of Thorold, got a new position as international housing co-ordinator, dealing with the Homestay program. She says there is a strong need for the program, as most international students stay with a Canadian family, called a "host family." Living in a Canadian home helps students learn more about Canadian culture and improve their English.

Asked about her new life in Canada, Luisa Martignago, 20, of Italy, says she likes the nature and the people here.

"I can meet people from other countries. I enjoy talking with them," says Genta Horiuchi, 25, of Japan.

Chinese student Wei Chen, 18, says, "It's different from my country. There is no crowd and it's quiet."

Lots of events, such as a trip to a Toronto Blue Jays baseball game and ethnic restaurant visits, are planned. The Social Committee will be organized soon.

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EYE ON NIAGARA

BRTF radio station seeking FM channel

BY MONICA PALINIEWICZ
Staff Writer

Niagara College's radio station is moving to low-power FM in an effort to expand its advertising and listener base. The station is operated by the Broadcasting--Radio, Television and Film (BRTF)program.

"We've been exploring plans to put the students' radio shows on low-power FM," says Black, program co-ordinator for 10 years. "This could help in selling commercials because of the expansion of the listener market outside the college."

Summer testing showed the station could be broadcast through "most of Welland," he says.

Another added feature is that Inside Niagara aired on Cogeco Cable 10 with the Grape and Wine Festival, filmed by the third-year television students, as the first project Sept. 25.

The first-year broadcasting students, of approximately 100 people, seem an "excited and enthusiastic" group, says Black.

"Right now, the first-year students are getting oriented to the three majors. We're just focusing on getting them comfortable with each other and the expectations of the program."

Black says "no serious changes" have been made from last year's curriculum.

"The last few years we have been fine tuning. Everything seems to be running well as is. We have an active advisory (committee) and a great team concept," says Black.

Sarah Mole, 21, of Sauble Beach, a third-year film student, says, "It's going to be a challenging and busy year but I'm looking forward to it."

Although no changes have been made to the film portion of the program, Mole says she "anticipates one specific aspect for the coming year."

> ***'It's going to be a challenging and busy year but I'm looking forward to it.'***
>
> ***— Sarah Mole***

"For the second semester, the third-year students are doing a documentary. We pick one idea out of a proposed four and then if we can get enough money through various fund-raisers, we get to go anywhere in the world to film our documentary. This year holds a lot for me and I am nothing but excited for it."

Keith Froud, 20, of Midland, a second-year BRTF student, says he's "looking forward" to this coming year.

He says his expectations for his second year are to pass "successfully with a grade above 60 per cent" and to "hopefully, walk out with a job come April."

"I hope I get a job by April so that I won't have to complete my third year and still be ahead of the game," says Froud.

The "one thing,"Froud says, he's looking forward to the most is "making movies."

"I'm totally excited just for making movies and having fun."

Third-year television student Ben Morrison, 20, of Janetville, says he hopes "to build up a good portfolio."

"This year I'm focused on building up a good portfolio because when we graduate in April, we're going to need it to get into the industry and to show different television stations," says Morrison.

He says he's especially interested in is the co-op second semester.

"I'm looking forward to this because it gives us the chance to work as professionals in the industry," says Morrison. "It really is going to be a good and exciting year for the broadcasting students."

Students continue tradition at Grape and Wine festival

Welland's Rose City float drew applause as one of the many floats in the Grape and Wine Festival parade on Sept. 25 in St. Catharines.

Photo by Mike Wencel

By KYM CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

ST. CATHARINES — Local festivities are helping make traditions for Niagara College students.

The Broadcasting—Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) third-year television students produced and aired the myriad events of Niagara's 48th Annual Grape and Wine Festival in September

The event is an annual class project, but is considered tradition by students.

"It's just something that has always been done," said T.J. Greggain, 20, of Erin, Ont. "Now it's our turn."

The producers of the event were Michelle Smith and Jennifer Jewell, 20, of Delhi, Ont. As producers their job was to get crews and equipment together to tape the different events throughout the week. This job also included doing the actual show's setup.

"We're trying to make this one of the best shows yet," said Jewell. "We want this to be a really great show."

The festival kicked off Sept. 17 and ran through Sept. 26 with concerts by Blue Rodeo and Big Sugar, wine tasting and food celebrations, a Pied Piper parade and arts and crafts exhibits. The festival wrapped up with the annual Pen Centre Grape and Wine Festival Grande Parade in downtown St. Catharines Sept. 25.

Third-year television students Smith and Mark Saccucci produced and directed the production. They oversaw the 14-member third-year student crew who provided multi-camera coverage and on-the-street reporting.

The broadcast included segment highlights of festival events including the crowning of the Grape King, the Mayors' Grape Stomp and events in Montebello Park.

Parade coverage was rebroadcast on Cogeco Cable 10 Sept. 25 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 26 at 3 and 6 p.m.

Party for students

By TRACEY ALLISON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Regional Police (NRP) hosted a party for the Law and Security Administration and Police Foundation program students who had volunteered at the World Rowing Championships in St. Catharines in August.

The championships took place from Aug. 20 to Aug. 29 in Port Dalhousie on Rennie Island, Henley Island and at Rennie Park.

After completing a job application and interview process, 50 Niagara College students were selected to work at this event.

"The students were very dedicated. Sometimes they worked a double shift and still went home to other work," says Ann Groves, a program assistant at the college. The work was on a volunteer basis and the hours each student worked varied.

Prior to the event, the students went through two days of training to prepare themselves for their work. They participated in communications training, police driving instruction and explosives-detection training.

The party, which was held to recognize the students' successful efforts at the World Rowing Championships, was at Scheller's Restaurant in Port Dalhousie on Sept. 13. Some of the people who attended were NRP Chief Grant Waddell and Dr. Bonnie Rose, Niagara College's vice-president academic.

Groves says the party was a success. There was "excellent food," and everyone had an enjoyable time, she added. The students received letters of recommendation from the NRP and certificates of participation. Groves says, "The whole event was top notch."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Student attends Cannes Festival

Promoting Canadian film

By KYM CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

College and university film students from across the country applied for the opportunity to attend last May's Cannes Film Festival in Paris, France.

Niagara College's Mike Bainbridge, 24, of Ottawa, who is a third-year film student in the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program at Niagara College, and Michelle Ouellette, of Concordia University in Montreal, were the only two students selected from across the country to attend the festival.

Bainbridge says he first heard about Films Canada, the company that sponsored the contest, from Roger Paris, who runs the program, during last year's Graffiti Awards night when Paris was guest speaker. The Graffiti Awards are given to BRTF program students.

Bainbridge says he wasn't really interested at first because it seemed "too far-fetched," but decided to take a chance and applied, and to his surprise was accepted.

Mike Bainbridge, 24, of Ottawa, was one lucky student selected nationwide to attend last May's Cannes Film Festival.

Submitted Photo

Films Canada covered the cost of airfare and accommodation for the 19-day excursion, but not food and spending. In return for the sponsorship, there was a bit of work involved, with booths set up at Cannes to promote Canadian film. Last year's Cannes festival did not have a Canadian pavilion, so Canadian films were shown in another location.

While at Cannes, Bainbridge says he attended seminars, films and, of course, the parties.

"The parties are where it's at. It's where a lot of the business happens because people are more relaxed."

Bainbridge says he collected "stacks of business cards and literature" and met several industry executives and "key behind-the-scenes people."

Seeing actor Jeff Goldblum at the Majestic Hotel was Bainbridge's closest brush with fame.

He says he's glad to have the opportunity as a student to experience film's "biggest industry show."

"It gives students an opportunity to meet contacts. People tend to open up to you when they find out that you're a student."

Bainbridge says he'll be going back to Paris: "Once you go, it gets in your blood and you have to go back."

He says that for now he is "actively pursuing" becoming a director of photography, but is considering writing and directing.

One day, Bainbridge says, he "definitely wouldn't mind" attending Cannes for one of his own films.

Comedy Improv at Niagara Artists Centre

So you think you're funny!

Kevin Robbins might be able to help you be sure about that.

He's paying out of his own pocket the rental fee for the Niagara Artists Centre space where he'll be holding workshops for comedy improv every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Robbins, a student in the Professional Screenwriting (Post-graduate) program, says he's been in Second City workshops since summer and misses the excitement and fun.

Never one to sit on his laurels, Robbins started the downtown St. Catharines Improv, at 2 Bond St., to show newcomers the ropes. Participants must be "at least" a teenager to join but do not need to have any comedy improvisational experience.

The three-hour session is free, but donations are accepted.

Robbins says he's trying to start a similar club at Brock University in St. Catharines. He's a graduate of the university and a former editor of the student newspaper, *The Brock Press*.

Students taste samples, offer views at Grape and Wine Festival Kiwanis event

Sarah Sheppard, 33, of Niagara Falls, completes an exit survey presented by Niagara College student Frank Strazzella, 22, of St. Catharines. Students in year two of the Business Administration-Marketing (Co-op) course conducted the survey for the Kiwanis Wine Tasting held at Club Roma on Sept. 9.

Photo by Sam Bayly

Lots of laughs at After Hours

Impressions rocked After Hours crowd

By MARK GARRETT
Staff Writer

Twelve beers for $12 and a lot of laughs made for a good night at After Hours on Sept. 15.

A smoky haze hung in the dim lights at After Hours on the Welland campus as the spectators settled into their seats or claimed spots at the bar.

The patriotic singing of the national anthem echoed throughout the pub as everyone hoisted a beer for a toast to the country while patiently awaiting the first comedian to hit centre stage.

The first comedian to entertain the rowdy crowd was Freddy Proia, 30, who rocked everyone with his hilarious impressions of a variety of professional wrestlers, such as Hulk Hogan, Stone Cold Steve Austin and The Rock.

Proia covered topics ranging from Don Cherry hosting Golf Night in Canada, to being Italian and living in Thorold. Proia had the crowd begging for more after he sang a song entitled Arkansas Red Neck Baby. The song was about Vanilla Ice and his song Ice Ice Baby turning country.

Proia got his first start in Toronto. He says he wanted to try stand-up comedy, and on the first night of his debut he gave a good show. Since that night he hasn't looked back.

Freddy Proia entertained a full house at the Welland campus After Hours pub on Sept. 15.

Photo by Mark Garrett

Proia held the title of Toronto's Funniest New Comic in 1988-89, has opened up a television show for Joan Rivers and starred in the last Seinfeld episode as Newman's younger brother. Proia says acting in the last episode of Seinfeld was "great and overwhelming."

> *'I've always wanted to be a comedian.'*
> *— Chris Quigley*

The second comedian to make the crowd laugh was 26-year-old Oakville native Chris Quigley. He focused on issues that the crowd wanted to hear about — sex and drugs. His bold language and love of pornography kept the crowd riveted to what he had to say.

When Quigley goes out on stage, he says, "I just tell the truth."

Quigley says he "likes" his job. "It (the job) has its ups and downs. I like making people laugh and also seeing the country. I've always wanted to be a comedian."

Comedy night is held every Wednesday at After Hours. The show begins around 9 p.m. and ends at about 11 p.m. However, the doors don't close at 11 p.m. so the beer can keep flowing and

ENTERTAINMENT

Counting Crows come alive to perform at LuLu's in Kitchener

By JENNIFER ATANAS
Staff Writer

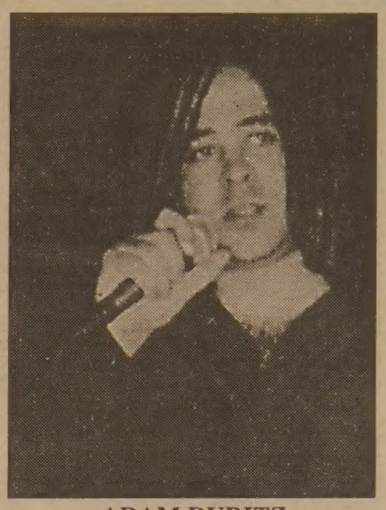
The Counting Crows delivered a dynamic three-hour performance to a crowd of devoted fans on July 14.

The atmosphere at LuLu's in Kitchener, Ont., was energetic and intimate. With help from the Gigolo Aunts, close friends of the band, the evening was one to be remembered.

Throughout the evening Duritz and band members gave fans an extraordinary show.

A variety of songs from both albums, **August and Everything After** and **Recovering the Satellites**, a 1996 release, were performed. They graced the audience with unique versions of songs from their live album, entitled **Across a Wire Live in New York**, released in 1998. The songs had a more tranquil acoustic feel.

New songs, which can be heard on their album **This Desert Life**, to be released Nov. 2, were also played. Duritz reassured the audience it would not be long until they could enjoy new material from the band. At all times Duritz positioned himself close to the end of the stage, swinging, moving and jumping to the rhythm. The message was conveyed not only through his mouth, but also through his eye contact, descriptive facial expressions and body gestures.



ADAM DURITZ
Photo by Jennifer Atanas

The night was excellent. When Duritz sat down to the beautiful grand piano situated at the rear of the stage, the audience went silent. He began to narrate a story from his childhood. He said he performed the next song for all the girls in his Hebrew school. Just as his story came to an end, they began to play *A Long December*, a touching, slow-tempo song that soothed the hyperactive audience.

Towards the concert's end, the band scurried together and talked in a circle trying to decide what unexpected song they would play next, having already entertained the crowd with two encores. They closed with *Anna Begins* and left thanking the crowd and inviting them to see the Gigolo Aunts in Toronto the following evening.

As they prepared to close, Duritz introduced each member and welcomed fans to join them for a post-concert party in the tour bus. Duritz went so far as to try to shake everyone's hand he could reach, telling the ones he had touched to let the people behind them come forward.

The extraordinary performance was presented by a band truly in touch with their fans and their music. The Counting Crows not only sound brilliant on their CDs, but are absolutely moving live.

Jewel moves crowd with dynamic performance

By TRACEY ALLISON
Staff Writer

Four thousand fans watched as singer Jewel rocked the Air Canada Centre on Sunday, Aug. 1.

It has been two years since Jewel visited Toronto, and excitement filled the Sears Theatre as the crowd waited impatiently for her to take the stage.

She had the crowd spellbound after her first breath. The show began in darkness with the 25-year-old singer/songwriter's angelic voice echoing over the devoted crowd.

She started with a song called *Near You Always*, from her first album, 1995's **Pieces of You**.

Jewel's performance had a different edge from the one at the Danforth Music Hall in 1997. She was backed by a five-piece band, which added a more lively, energetic feel to her music. Jewel's "good friend," singer/songwriter/acoustic guitar player Steve Poltz, who was also the opening act, was in the band.

The two-hour show was packed with hits from her most recent album, 1998's **Spirit.** She belted out such songs as *Jupiter, Life Uncommon, Barcelona* and *Down So Long*, all of which excited the crowd who clapped and sang along.

Playing several of her past hits, including a funky, more jazzy version of *Who Will Save Your Soul*, Jewel had the fans out of their seats and running to the front of the stage.

There was a close personal atmosphere between Jewel and the audience. She was relaxed and enjoyed speaking to the crowd. She told a long, humorous, personal story of an adventure she had with Poltz in Mexico. This led to the intro of her hit song *You Were Meant For Me*, co-written by Poltz after their adventure. The duo delivered a beautiful version.

At one point Jewel said, "I don't feel like playing anything off my album," so she played some new songs. This spontaneity gave a personal feeling to her show.

Throughout the concert many male fans screamed out declarations of love, whistled and offered marriage proposals. Jewel responded by asking, "What kind of girl do you think I am?"

Someone in the crowd reached out and handed Jewel her poetry book, A Knight Without Armour, and she read one of her poems as the crowd listened in silence.

She ended the concert with her famous yodeling, and the fans left this dynamite performance feeling satisfied.

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SPORTS

Wrestling coming to Niagara region

By ROBERT LAPENSEE
and JASON VIZBULIS
Staff Writers

Batten down the hatches because wrestling has come to the Niagara region.

Gaetan "the Gator" Rouillard has opened up the Gator Wrestling Academy (GWA). The GWA, at 5861 Thorold Stone Rd., in Niagara Falls, is a wrestling school and wrestling promotion company to help area residents become the future superstars of wrestling.

The 31-year-old Welland man is a semi-retired wrestler and the owner of the GWA. He has been involved with wrestling for 11 years and has wrestled professionally for nine. He said he had been thinking about opening a wrestling school in the area for about five years.

"I did a lot of market research in the area, and wrestling was the only thing missing from the region. There was martial arts and karate. Niagara region was such a hot bed for wrestling a couple years ago, and there still is a lot of interest around the area."

For $2,500, he will teach you how to deliver punishing wrestling maneuvers and how to take a few bumps too. The school gives lessons on three nights a week for six months to people serious about the sport. People looking for a fun night out won't find it at the GWA.

"We will not make it easy on the students," said Rouillard. "They must be dedicated.

"This is serious, just like Niagara College. I'm the teacher and they are the students. There are classes three times a week and they are expected to show up."

Rouillard learned how to wrestle at Sully's Gym in Toronto.

"When I was a little kid, it was something I always wanted to do."

He was taught by the late pro-wrestler Sweet Daddy Siki and trained with World Wrestling Federation (WWF) superstars Edge and Christian. He then went to Hamilton to train with another pro-wrestler named Missing Link before beginning his career that took him as far away as Tennessee.

Rouillard said wrestling is a tough life. Common complaints among wrestlers are the long hours on the road, the many nights in hotels and the time spent away from family. Rouillard said he didn't pursue a career in the WWF because of his family.

"I got a wife and kids I don't want to leave and it is kind of hard to save money on the road."

"Being a wrestler is the hardest thing I ever had to do in my life. It is hard to break into the business. It is a very tough life."

Students will be learning traditional moves like headlocks and drop kicks but also the "hard-core" style of wrestling. Rouillard said this (hard-core) is the style of wrestling people wanted to see.

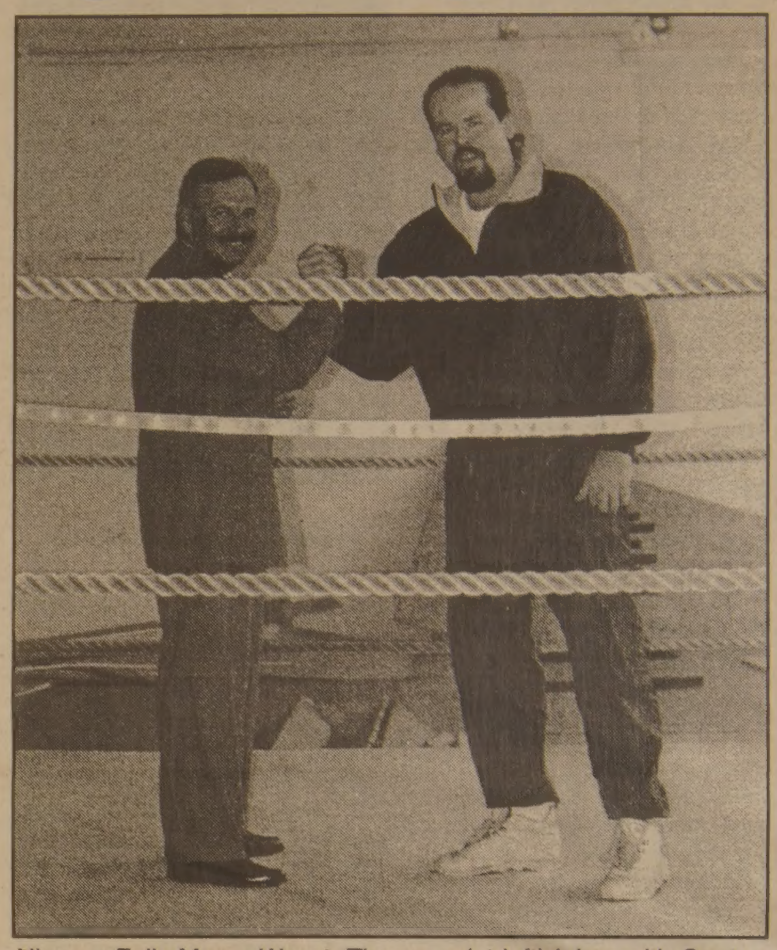
"People don't want to see two wrestlers just rolling around on a mat."

After the six months of training, the students will become pro-wrestlers and will be able to apply their chokeholds, body slams and power bombs in real wrestling matches, but only if Gator says they are ready.

"We are not going to put them in a match when they are not ready."

In addition to the wrestling school, Rouillard said he plans to organize wrestling events for the Niagara area. He said he wants to import big name wrestlers for the main events and use his students to fill out the rest of the card.

The first event is scheduled for Fort Erie and will feature 80's WWF stars Greg "the Hammer" Valentine against Axe of the tag-team Demolition on March 4.



Niagara Falls Mayor Wayne Thomson (at left) jokes with Gaetan "the Gator" Rouillard.

Photo by Robert Lapensée

Niagara athletes getting ready for new season

Niagara Knights teams gearing up for challenging new season

By MIKE DILTS
Staff Writer

Let the sports begin.

It's the beginning of the school year, and Niagara College athletes are trying out for their teams.

"If they missed the tryouts and if they feel they can make the team, they still have a chance to make the team," said Ray Sarkis, the college's co-ordinator, athletics and recreation.

"If they have any questions, they can come and see us."

The men's basketball team plays its first game at Niagara College on Oct. 12 with new coach Ralph Nero.

The women's basketball team plays its first game on Oct. 29 at Niagara.

The men's volleyball team plays its first game on Oct. 2. The women's volleyball team plays its next game on Oct. 6 at Daemen College in Buffalo, N.Y.

The rugby championships are set for Oct. 23 and Oct. 24 at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Peterborough. The touch football championship is on Oct. 15 and 16 at Mohawk College in Hamilton.

On Feb. 5, the women's indoor soccer team plays its first game at Conestoga College in Kitchener, and the men's indoor soccer team plays its first game on Feb. 6 at Conestoga.

In intramural sports, the indoor soccer team plays its first game on Nov. 2, and the ice hockey and basketball teams play their first games on Jan. 18.

On March 14, the ball hockey team plays its first game.

On Oct. 23, after a women's volleyball game and a men's basketball game, a Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held at After Hours at the Welland campus.

There will be an Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association men's and women's basketball all-star game on Jan. 22.

"My hopes are to finally see one of our programs represent us at the national championships," said Sarkis, adding he hopes students will come and see the teams in action.

Admission to all home games is $4 for adults and $2 for students with identification. Children under 12 years of age are admitted free if accompanied by an adult. A Niagara College Booster Club season pass can be purchased for $12 to attend all games.

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Rebuilding year for women's volleyball

Women's volleyball team looking foward to a new, exciting season, but defence is a must

By MIKE WENCEL
Staff Writer

New rules and a new team are what the Niagara College women's volleyball team have to look forward to this season.

The new rule effective this year for the volleyball season is that each game will go to 25, by rally point. Last year each game went to 15, with a 17-point cap.

"It speeds the game up and we have to focus on defense," says Carolyn Schatz, head coach. "We are really focusing on fundamental skills throughout our practices.

This year's team will consist of five returning players and nine rookies. The veterans of the team are Izzy Chavez, Erin Flyte, Dianne VanDenHoven, Jen Carpenter and Heather Richardson.

"This will be a successful rebuilding year," says Heather Richardson. "We have a lot of young recruits who will be able to do a good job on the court."

"We really have to focus on our serving, because if you miss, that is a point for the other team this year," says Richardson. "Our expectations are not as high this year because of all the younger players, but we expect to be right at the top."

This will be a successful rebuilding year.

— Heather Richardson

The Knights' first match was last night at Niagara County Community College in Sanborn, N.Y., for an exhibition game. Their first home game will be on Saturday, Oct. 23, against Niagara County Community College.

Come out and enjoy the action as the Knights put on a spectacular display of skill.

SPORTS

Stanley Cup up for grabs this year

By RAM KRISHNAMURTHY
Staff Writer

Hockey's back, and for hockey diehards it means the time has come to shoot the breeze with your fellow diehards and justify why your favourite team will do well this season. Even if on the inside you know your team doesn't have what it takes to succeed, you're surely not about to admit that on the outside.

Many would suggest that the main powerhouses in the National Hockey League are in the Western Conference. It has the defending champs from Texas, of course the champs from 1997 and 1998, and the Detroit Red Wings, who will be more than competitive. As for the Colorado Avalanche, it appears their roster will not be as strong with free agent losses such as Thereon Fleury, Valeri Kamensky and Sylvain Lefebre. Also, it's important to note that not a whole lot has been done to replace those key players.

In the Eastern Conference, the action should be wide open. Last year's East champs, the Buffalo Sabres, will likely be very competitive, but if goalie Dominik Hasek runs into any injury problems, the Sabres could be a question mark. With Alexi Yashin continuing his quest for unreasonable financial glory, the Ottawa Senators could be lacking. Let's face it, Yashin is a pain in the rear, but nonetheless a productive player.

You can probably count on the New Jersey Devils and Philadelphia Flyers having strong regular seasons, though the question remains whether these two teams have what it takes to be playing in May. The New York Rangers had yet another off-season spending spree. We will wait to see if it pays off for at least a playoff birth.

If they can stay somewhat healthy and if their under-achievers start producing, the Montreal Canadiens can't be counted out for making the playoffs. Shayne Corson and Trevor Linden must provide strong leadership along with strong performances on the ice for the Habs to make anything interesting.

As for the Toronto Maple Leafs, the pressure is there to better their performance of last season.

The summer seemed to be one of inactivity for Leaf management, but what else is new. With the Leaf organization in solid financial shape, you would expect an addition or two to the current roster. However, it appears what you see is what you get with the blue and white.

As for this year's Stanley Cup champions, I'm picking the Dallas Stars to repeat.

NHL holdouts looking to cash in big time

By JASON VIZBULIS
Staff Writer

Look out, hockey fans, some of your million dollar stars aren't playing and want more money.

The number of free agents still unsigned is unprecedented but not unexpected in this new age of multi-million dollar contracts. Quality young players, such as Jarome Iginla, Rhett Warrener and Boris Mironov, have chosen not to sign, so they can't attend training camps.

For these young players development, not excessive amounts of money, should be their main concern. If they were to sign and get on the ice and turn into the stars scouts feel they can become, money will be the least of their worries in the future.

Then there are the unrestricted free agents. These players are over the age of 30 and can sign with any team willing to pay the price. However, the price teams are willing to pay for veterans like Ulf Samuelsson and Joe Juneau aren't what the players expected or wanted.

As a result, they are sitting at home, hoping that a slow start by some team will get the phone ringing and the money coming. This is not going to happen, as most teams have already blown their budgets. The hope these players have is that some of the large-market teams, such as the New York Rangers or Detroit Red Wings, struggle early, panic and open up the bank vaults.

In addition to these free agents is hold-out Alexi Yashin. Already with a $3.5-million guaranteed contract he has decided it's not enough. In his short career the lack of money has enabled him to play for the Ottawa Senators.

A number of players have come out against Yashin saying he should honour his contract and then try to get the eight to nine million dollars he feels he deserves. The Senators are a small-market Canadian team with large Canadian tax problems. They can't afford to pay Yashin's outlandish request.

There is also a problem with Yashin's play in last year's playoffs. The team captain and offensive leader couldn't register a point against the Buffalo Sabres. The Senators got swept in four games and lost a lot of money that would have come from additional playoff games. However, Yashin and his agent don't want to talk about that, so he's now playing Switzerland on a small game-to-game contract. Poor Mr. Yashin.

It's really too bad hockey fans have to be concerned with the financial end of hockey and not just the game on the ice. As a hockey fan I say to the players, "Sign the damn contracts and get your overpaid butt on the ice where it belongs."

Another gem at Bell Canadian Open tourney

By MARTIN MCQUAIG
Staff Writer

September tournaments are notorious for desperate professionals

There is no joy in Oakville. Professional golf fans have struck out.

Or have they?

With the last-minute (although expected) invitation to our country's most prestigious tournament declined by the likes of Tiger Woods and David Duval, perennial Bell Canadian Open (BCO) supporters thought they were in for another week of watching Professional Golfers Association (PGA) sewer-dwellers struggle to retain their tour cards.

September tournaments are notorious for desperate professionals fighting relegation, while the game's stars shoot Nike commercials in Orlando.

The 1999 PGA season wasn't simply a platform for the tour's two outstanding stars, Woods and Duval, to chase the money title and score endorsements through prime-time television match play events.

It was a season, however, in which Canada's "great left-handed hope," Mike Weir, finally emerged as one of the game's best. Weir was twice paired with Woods on a Sunday this year, once in the season's final major tournament, before he captured his first tour victory in Vancouver last month. That win set the locals' expectations high for the following week at the BCO.

If Woods' and Duval's failure to appear lost prospective fans, then surely Weir's presence would bring them back.

Glen Abbey's layout proved too difficult for the Bright's Grove, Ont., native and he missed Friday's cut.

Once again sparks flew in the media about the lack of star-power at the tournament.

Those who actually watched the tournament saw a different story.

Former PGA Rookie-of-the-Year Hal Sutton and 1998 U.S. Open champion Lee Janzen were on top of a highly competitive field. Even two-time Masters champion Nick Faldo had vaulted his way onto the first page of the leader board with a Saturday round of 68.

By Sunday evening, the beautiful summer sun had set on a course that had brought some of golf's best down to earth.

The fans were awarded with great play and a deserving champion in Sutton.

Those who preferred to stay at home and question the intents of Woods and Duval have no idea what they missed.

Next year will be the last year Glen Abbey (an architectural gem forged by Jack Nicklaus) will host the BCO before it changes locations throughout Canada each year.

The real golf fans will miss it when it's gone. They know that the sunburn will last a few days, but the memories will last a lifetime.

Two-time Masters champion Nick Faldo practises chipping in preparation for the Bell Canadian Open on Sept. 8 in Oakville, Ont.

Photo by Martin McQuaig

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EYE ON NIAGARA

Students help produce Food Festival

Peninsula's Tastiest Party

By PENNI LAFLEUR
Staff Writer

Niagara College students play many roles in the successful production of the region's sixth annual Food Festival.

As part of the new course curriculum, Public Relations (Post-graduate) program students will be conducting public relations market research at the festival, which runs tomorrow and Sunday on Merritt Island in Welland.

Students will be responsible for conducting surveys during the event. They will be asking participants questions such as where they live, which festival activities they enjoyed, and how much money they spent.

Of the 48 students registered in the program, 15 to 20 students will be onsite over the weekend to collect the data. A database will be created and analyzed, and the final report will be submitted to the Food Festival Committee.

Other college programs involved, on a volunteer basis, are students from the Police Foundations and Law and Security Administration programs, supplying security for the event. Students from the Paramedic program will offer first aid and emergency services.

'It's an excellent part of learning.'

— Kim Reep

"Niagara College offers invaluable service in these three areas," said Kim Reep, Niagara Food Festival general manager.

"The Food Festival offers students a good look at what they will be facing in their chosen fields. It's an excellent part of learning."

Students from the Culinary Management (Co-op) program will be serving a variety of food specialties at a revenue-generating booth as part of an offsite program function at "The Peninsula's Tastiest Party."

Niagara College Public Relations Post-graduate program student volunteers greet guests to the 6th Annual Niagara Food Festival Media Day held on Sept. 24. Seated from left are Nancy Speck and Stephanie Irvine, standing, Sean Coffey and Tyler-Leigh Robinson. **Photo by Penni Lafleur**

South Niagara needs more Big Brother volunteers

More than 30 youngsters in Welland are still waiting for Big Brothers

By MARY KOTSOPOULOS
Staff Writer

More than 170 Big Brother and Big Sister agencies across Canada celebrate the month of September as National Big Brother and Big Sister Month.

Big Brothers of South Niagara is a non-profit agency in need of volunteers both female and male. Both agencies are seeking more than 130 volunteers to give some of their time to children.

Big Brothers serves children in Welland, Port Colborne and Pelham and offers four different programs for potential volunteers. Male volunteers over the age of 18 require only three to four hours a week to be in the Big Brother Program.

The In School Mentoring Program requires one hour a week from a male or female volunteer over the age of 17. This program is held on school property and is a school-based friendship program. This program is available at seven schools in Welland and one in Port Colborne. Volunteering for the In School Mentoring Program allows student volunteers flexibility to fit their school schedules.

Big Brothers host's a Big Bunch Program. This program is offered is to children who are on the Big Brothers waiting list. The Big Bunch Program is held on Sunday afternoons for three hours, every week. Volunteers are required to spend at least three hours a month.

During the summer holiday, Big Brothers runs the Summer Enrichment Program, which is run by a student hired for the summer by the Big Brothers agency. There are 36 Big Brothers and 27 mentors at the Big Brothers in Welland. More than 30 youngsters are still waiting.

Volunteers are also needed for the Big Sisters monthly recreational program.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters are interested in volunteers to be a part of the Board of Directors and on a Committee of the Board such as Fundraising or Public Relations. There are three vacancies for board members at the Big Brothers in Welland. These positions are available for senior students and faculty.

Two years is too long to wait for a Big Brother or a Big Sister when you're a kid.

All of the volunteer programs mentioned offer a wide range of activities for both children and adults.

"Two years is too long to wait for a Big Brother or a Big Sister when you're a kid" is the message the two agencies want the community to receive.

For information on any of the programs mentioned above, contact Big Brothers of South Niagara at (905) 735-0570 or e-mail at bigbro@iaw.on.ca.

The small amount of time to act as a Big Brother or a Big Sister will change the life of a child and will help the community in the future.

Ontario Metis sign much-needed agreement

Program includes wage subsidies, bursaries for university

By CASSANDRA SIMONS
Staff Writer

The Metis Nation of Ontario has signed an agreement with Human Resource Development Canada to help Metis needing career training and employment assistance.

The Metis are one of three distinct groups of Canada's aboriginal peoples.

"The program is for any Metis person, regardless of the organization they belong to," Jen St. Germain, community development officer, says.

It is available to any Metis who are unemployed and needing additional training or to Metis students wanting more experience.

The program includes wage subsidies, training purchases and support for culturally based economic development projects.

"Every case is very much individual so there is no specific criteria other than that you have to prove you're Metis," says St. Germain.

Margaret Heath, outreach administrator for the Welland office, says this program helps Metis develop skills in "life and otherwise."

"The program also offers bursaries for colleges and universities," says Heath.

Heath co-ordinated a youth program, which has had five graduates.

"The youth in the program went to different schools doing a presentation of their individuality and culture," says Heath.

There is a "great" need for this program, "and that need is growing rapidly."

"A lot of Metis people don't have the education they need to get by. After being in the program the people have an increase in self-esteem."

'A lot of Metis people don't have the education they need to get by.'

—Margaret Heath

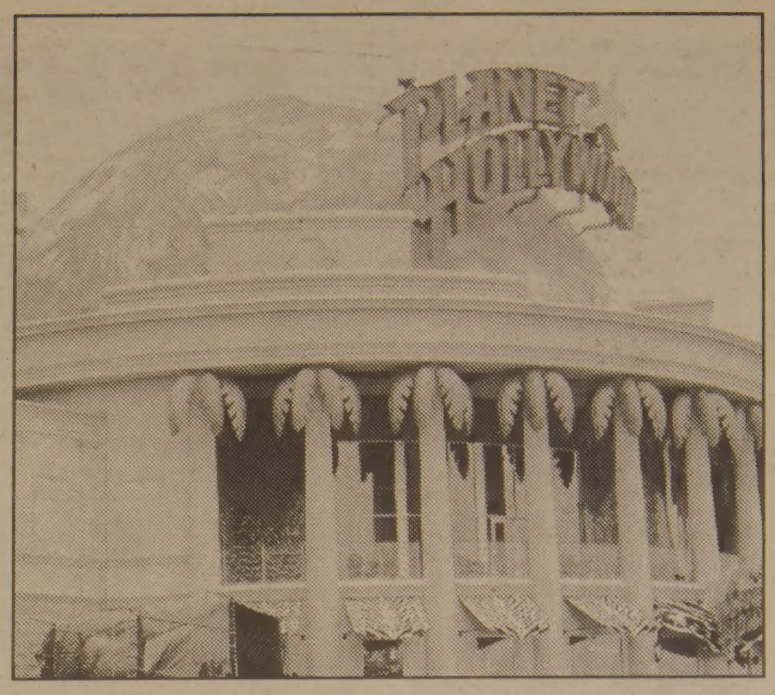
If you are interested in this program and would like some more information, contact Margaret Heath in the Welland office by calling 714-9756.

At left: After Hours and Molson Breweries hosted a 'get your picture taken with a cow' night on Thursday, Sept. 16. Posing here are, from left, Dave Rapelje, student centre manager, Jennifer Beatty, Welland campus student president and Dave Zezella of Molson.

Photo by Jamie White

Niagara News readers, look for our feature on Planet Hollywood, in Niagara Falls, in the Oct. 15 edition.

Photo by Sam Bayly



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Niagara News

Summer Supplement

Second Section Oct. 1, 1999

Summer chic!

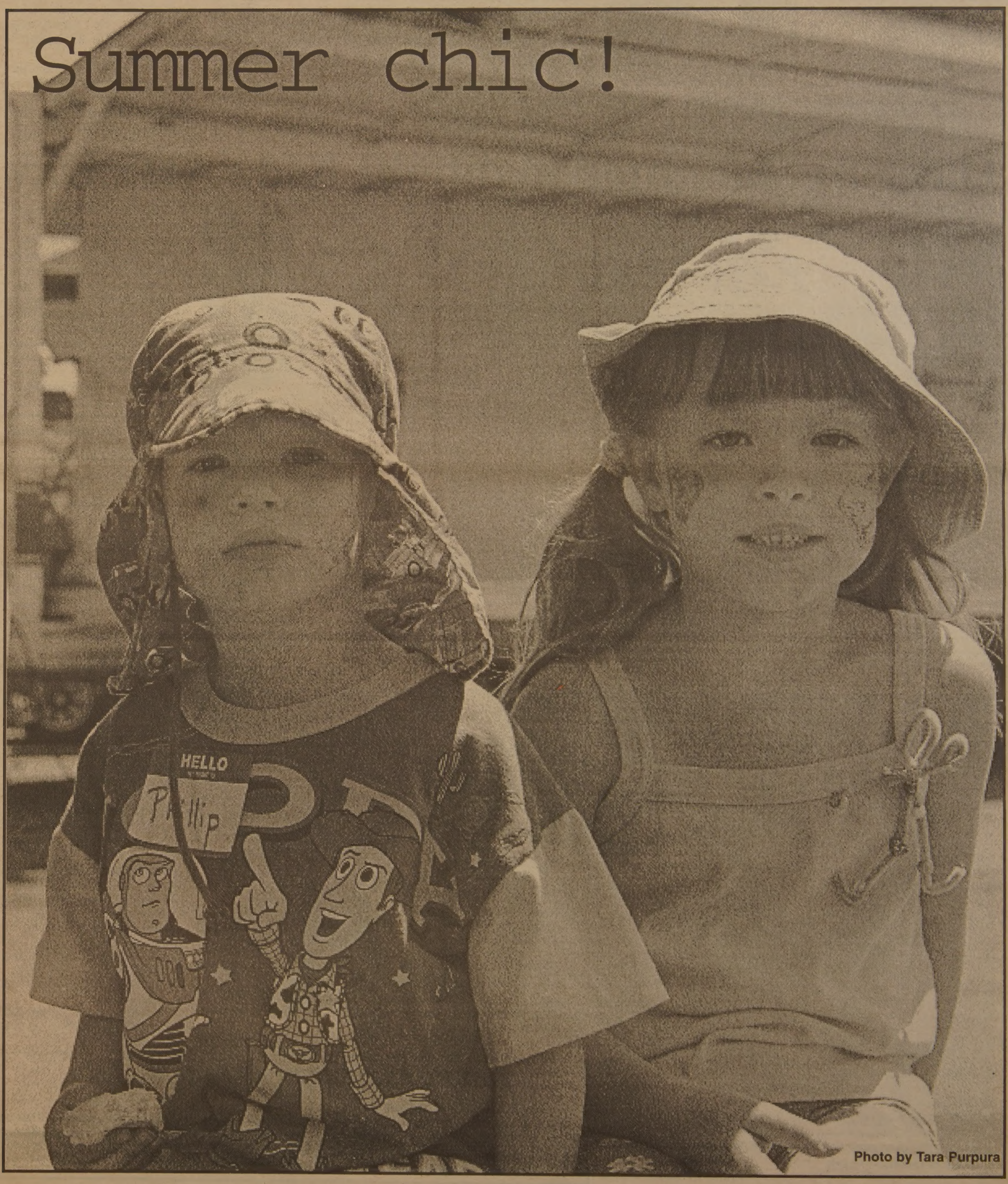


Photo by Tara Purpura

Eye on Niagara

Lifelong learning benefits in or out of class

By TARA PURPURA
Staff Writer

Lifelong learning, both in and out of the classroom, is an important investment.

Susan Robbins, 30, of Ridgeway, Ont., is assistant supervisor at the E. J. Freeland Community YMCA Child Care Centre in Fort Erie.

A graduate in 1992 of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program at Niagara College, Robbins said, "A person is never so experienced that they shouldn't be open to new ideas and suggestions."

In 1997 she became involved with furthering the education of college graduates as a mentor.

SUSAN ROBBINS

Partners in Practice formed three mentoring pilot programs in 1997 funded through Human Resources Development Canada. Sixteen novice ECE graduates (proteges) were paired to work alongside 16 experienced ECE practitioners (mentors).

Partners in Practice published a project newsletter which stated the Niagara Early Childhood Mentoring Training program was formed to "explore reflective practice as a means to enhance the quality of work practitioners do with children and families."

People who applied as mentors were required to have a minimum of five years' experience in a variety of ECE facilities. Robbins had been working in her field five years when her supervisor asked if she'd be interested in the mentoring program.

"I didn't think that I had much of a shot (at being selected), I was still rather new," she said. "I felt prepared for the role as mentor because I have had the opportunity to help and encourage many co-op students who have been placed in my classroom."

From September 1997 to May 1998, Robbins would spend three hours weekly with her protege at the Kids World Day Care Centre in Welland.

She said her role was to lend support and guide her protege in the "right" direction. The program encouraged mentors and proteges to provide feedback in order to better the learning outcomes.

Robbins said she'd rather have had her protege attend class at the YMCA, than attend her protege's class in Welland.

"In a different classroom you try to get comfortable. You're not really using your expertise to help your protege because you're still testing the waters in a new setting."

The experience was an excellent learning tool, said Robbins. "It was great. Not only was I helping someone to learn but I also learned so much from it."

The mentor/protege pilot program provided the first formal Canadian research on the use of mentoring strategies and their effect on the quality of child care.

Dancing, laughter highlight Kidz Artz Day

Area dancers from Shirley Yeszam School of Dance relax before their performance. From left to right are Elise Andrey, Trista Richardson and Jennifer Hudak.

Photo by Tara Purpura

By TARA PURPURA
Staff Writer

Smiling children, music, dancing and laughter prevailed on the grounds of the Welland Historical Museum on July 10.

Kidz Artz Day, presented by Welland Community Services, Festival of the Arts, College des Grands Lacs, the Welland Historical Museum and the City of Welland featured fun and educational activities for the children of Welland.

'A bigger event means that more children will show up next year.'

–Carol Kitchen

Kerri Turner, Kidz Artz Day demonstrations organizer, of Welland, said the day was not originally geared toward children, "but as it came together, we realized that it should be for the kids."

The grounds at the museum provided space for a variety of displays, activities and play areas for the children. Included in the activities were face painting by Big Sisters of Niagara, Discovery Toys, an origami table by Niagara College, bean bag and ring toss by Big Brothers of Niagara, Kindermusik by Penny Blake, and more.

Area "artizans" were on hand with several arts and craft tables.

Turner said the organizers were "hoping" to have more crafts this year, but with time restrictions it wasn't possible.

Carol Kitchen, a Welland volunteer, said the organizers want to have a bigger Kidz Artz Day next year.

The children were kept busy with the many activities.

"A bigger event means that more children will show up next year," Kitchen said.

Kayla Smith poses after having her face painted at the Big Sisters of Niagara booth.

Photo by Tara Purpura

Artist Tannis Koskela scrubs and scrapes a section of a Welland mural for the mural restoration project.

Photo by Tara Purpura

Summer supplement done in July

Welcome to our Summer Supplement.

This eight-page section was completed by eight January-Start Journalism-Print program students at Niagara College in Welland. The students conducted the interviews, wrote the articles and took, developed and scanned the photographs. They did the pagination layout and headlines.

The reporting, editing, photography and page layout were completed in July.

Eye on Niagara

New look bookstore offers more to students

By ROBERT LAPENSEE
Staff Writer

The bookstore is changing inside and out.

Niagara College's Welland campus bookstore is changing its physical structure as well as its internal operating structure.

The store is operated by the American company Barnes and Noble College Bookstores. Having taken over the store, formerly operated by Niagara College, slightly over a year ago, it's placing its mark on the bookstore.

"The store is operated by Barnes and Noble and they designed and paid for the renovations," said Marilyn Courtney, the Welland campus store manager.

You can see the difference by just looking around the store. The bookstore has more space because of the college's Glendale campus opening in Niagara-on-the-Lake in September 1998. Books for the programs offered there have been moved to that facility, freeing space to create a new look to the Welland store.

"We needed space for the reference desk, books, computer programs, gifts and clothing," said Courtney.

She said the store got new technical support in the form of cash registers and a new computer system to help speed service.

"A lot of money was put into renovations."

The store has always sold textbooks for the various programs available at the college. Now it retails clothing, candy, magazines, greeting cards, newspapers, mugs, key chains and an abundance of other trinkets and gifts.

Although Barnes and Noble has changed the appearance of the bookstore, Stan Frank, marketing director for the firm, at their New York City office, said the company has no intention of changing the identity of the store or the college.

"The name Barnes and Noble does not appear in the store," Frank said. "It is a Niagara College bookstore. It is not our intention to promote Barnes and Noble. We promote Niagara College. Only one or two stores have Barnes and Noble emblems, but they insisted."

Courtney said the company is a good one with which to be affiliated.

"(They have) good professional development. Excellent calibre of people, very professional. (You're) on a course all the time, always learning."

Barnes and Noble operates more than 350 bookstores in the United States, including those at Harvard University in Massachusetts, Yale University in Connecticut and neighbouring Niagara University in New York State.

In Canada, Barnes and Noble has a partnership with book retailer Chapters.

"Barnes and Noble supplies most of the technological aspects. Chapters is based with books and merchandise," said Frank.

Together, they operate three bookstores in Canada: one at the Welland campus, one at the Glendale campus, and one at Loyalist College in Belleville, Ont. Chapters operates the McGill University bookstore in Montreal.

The new look to the store isn't the only renovation.. Another change is a book "buy back" feature, which will debut in August.

Yvonne Michaud, of Welland, non-text buyer, said the store will buy books back, put them on the shelf and resell them as used books.

"We buy them at half the original cost if they are usable next semester," said Sylvia Marotta, bookseller in the college bookstore. When they resell the books, Marotta said they'll be cheaper than the original cost of a new book.

"As long as the book stays a requirement (to the program) we can get that back to the student," Michaud said. "Only if the book changes (in the program), then we can't do that."

The store buys books back for the MSB company. This firm has a listing of books in a catalog. If the book you want to sell is listed they will buy it back.

"They'll (MBS) buy the books, but they'll give peanuts," said Marotta.

Another change to the store is the refusal to accept personal cheques.

Courtney said this change isn't a result of the Barnes and Noble takeover, but because the store has a history of receiving bad cheques.

With all these changes comes some good news for students who need help financially. The bookstore is hiring for August and September.

"We are always looking to hire students," said Courtney. "We pay them above minimum wage and they get a discount on books."

Courtney said there are lots of positions available. They are part-time positions for the bookstore. The company is always looking to hire people for management.

"They are growing so fast. This year they hired 156 new managers."

Courtney said there are lots of positions available for the two months, and they will possibly keep on one or two people depending on ability. She said there will be another hiring in January.

John Frame paints the walls outside the Niagara College Campus Store during its renovations. The new look to the store, besides the freshly-painted walls, includes a reference desk, a candy-bar rack, a magazine rack, greeting cards and clothing.

Photo by Robert Lapensee

Contest winner now working for college

Our logo symbolizes a path carved in stone by the water of Niagara Falls just as the college carves out a path for its students

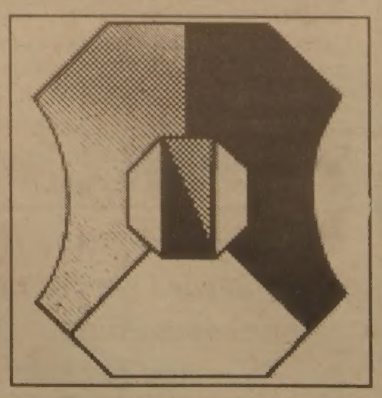
By LISA TAFT
Staff Writer

How do you find a logo for a school?

Put an advertisement in the paper. That's what Niagara College did.

John Frame, a labourer, of Smithville, Ont., spotted the ad for the contest in the *West Lincoln Review* in 1992.

The request was simple. Niagara College was looking for someone from the Niagara Region to design a logo for the college and submit it with an explanation. The winner would receive $1,000.



The way we were . . .

Contestants could enter as many times as they wanted, which is what Frame would've done except "the Review had the wrong date."

He said he had a few ideas for the logo, but time restricted him to submitting one, which proved to be the best of 107 entries.

Frame, a graduate of the Graphic Arts program at Mohawk College in Hamilton, said he had done some small business logos in the past, but the best part of this one is "seeing it on people's jackets and T-shirts."

"It's very efficient and cost-efficient design; it reproduces well in any size and works in just one colour of ink," said Ken Cosgrove in an article of the *Niagara News* printed Oct. 23, 1992. Cosgrove is a member of the Logo Task Group and co-ordinator of the college's Art and Design Fundamentals-Graphic Design Production program.

. . . the way we are

What is the meaning behind the logo?

"People trying to find direction," said Frame. "Niagara means great water of thunder. The Niagara College logo is like a path carved in the rock by water just as the college carves a path in students' lives."

Frame worked at Mohawk College when he designed the logo, but now you can find him working around the Welland campus of Niagara College. Most recently, he painted the border around the outside of the bookstore.

"It's good pay, there are nice people, and it's a great place," said Frame, adding he likes the fact Niagara is a growing college.

When Frame isn't painting at the college, he said he likes to play with his "folk, cajun, country" band, which recently released its first CD **This Old Guitar**.

Eye on Niagara

Niagara College graduate reaches career goal

By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

For one Niagara College graduate, a playground full of children has become a field of dreams.

Sharon Schilz, supervisor of the E.J. Freeland Community YMCA Child Care Centre in Fort Erie, said she "never harboured any doubt" that working with children was what she wanted to do after high school.

"It may be a little cliche to say that 'children are our future', but I certainly knew that they were my future."

The 28-year-old Fort Erie resident, who graduated from Niagara College's Early Childhood Education (ECE) program in 1990, said she credits the "co-operative education model" of college training as part of her success in the workplace. The two-year diploma program combines academic studies with "real-life" field experience in community schools and child-care centres, Schilz said.

"Like most (graduates), I suppose I was a little apprehensive about graduating and starting my first job, but when the time came, the transition (from school to work) was easy because I had already been out in the field as a co-op student. It really prepared me."

After four years as an ECE teacher, Schilz attained her first supervisory position at the Children and Student YMCA Child Care program in Fort Erie, where she worked until her present appointment in 1996.

With about 12 staff and more than 100 children, the E.J. Freeland Community YMCA Child Care Centre is the largest of its kind in Fort Erie, and one of only two offering infant care.

ECE graduate — Sharon Schilz, 28

As a supervisor of other early childhood educators, including several Niagara College graduates, Schilz said she has come to appreciate the value of "lifelong learning."

"I have always believed in working hard, and striving to better myself. As a supervisor, I encourage others to do the same, and I'm rewarded when I see them (new staff members) reach their potential."

Professional development, said Schilz, is "essential" to early childhood educators, "not only because it allows you to keep up with what's going on in the field, but because it gives you a chance to network with your peers in the profession.

"Niagara College is where I got my start, but learning doesn't end on graduation day."

She has continued her education through courses, workshops and memberships in several professional organizations.

In addition, she serves on two committees of the Early Childhood Community Development Centre, in St. Catharines.

Schilz said she has seen many changes in early childhood education over the nine years since she graduated, not the least of which are regulatory changes and government cuts. The fear of cuts to subsidized day-care spaces or provincial pay-equity programs is "a cause of anxiety" among early childhood educators, and, in particular, those who are just entering the field, she said.

"I understand the need that governments have to trim budgets, but I worry that eventually the quality (of care) will be sacrificed."

Despite the uncertainty of future funding, she said, early childhood education is "constantly adapting" to the ever-changing needs of children and their families. As for her own centre, Schilz said she credits the loyalty, team work and dedication of her staff for what she calls the "small, day-to-day successes."

"As an early childhood educator, you are part of a larger circle of caregivers — family, teachers, community — but the child is always at the centre of that circle."

Sharon Schilz stands in front of the E.J. Freeland Community YMCA Day Care Centre in Fort Erie. Schilz, who is supervisor of the centre, is a Niagara College graduate.

Photo by John Robbins

Welland Canal still a popular swimming hole for locals

By LISA TAFT
Staff Writer

The Welland Canal is still a popular swimming hole for Port Colborne's youth.

Summer is here and the canal is open for another season of — swimming?

It's been happening for years despite the fact that it's illegal to swim there.

"We don't enforce that law simply because it has been happening for so long," says one Port Colborne police officer. "As long as the merchants and the (St. Lawrence) Seaway don't complain we don't see a problem."

West Street was once host to a variety of little swimming holes. Now these places have been replaced, either by docks or rocks.

The train bridge beside the Clarence Street bridge was torn down two years ago and leaves the little islands to the right of the bridge on the West side of town for the kids to swim. Occasionally, they jump off the railings of the bridge, but usually they stay between the walls where there are stairs for them to climb out of the water.

'It's not the cleanest but it's the same as the beach, with something to jump from.'
—Stephanie Murphy

With Nickel Beach only five minutes away why would kids rather swim in the canal?

"I don't have access to a pool," says Eric Vis, 18, of Port Colborne, as he climbs the railing to dive in. "This gives you something to jump off of."

"It's deep and you can dive here," agrees Stephanie Murphy, 16, of Port Colborne. She says "it's not the cleanest but it's the same as the beach, with something to jump from."

Two Port Colborne youths pull themselves out of the canal using the wall after jumping off the Clarence Street bridge.

Photo by Lisa Taft

College child care run by alumnus since 1995

The Niagara College Child Care Centre provides a safe environment for children from infant to three years old

By MIRANDA HUBBS
Staff Writer

Niagara College offers many programs of study whose graduates go on to be successful in their field. The manager of the Niagara College Child Care Centre, at the Welland campus, is one of those.

Since the day it opened in the fall of 1995, the Niagara College Child Care Centre has been managed by an alumnus, Pat Eversden, of Fort Erie.

Eversden was a student at Niagara College in the Early Childhood Education program. She graduated in 1975 and began working as a teacher at the Fort Erie Regional Day Care Centre in 1976, becoming supervisor in 1978.

' The day care centre is a very needed service in our community.'
— Pat Eversden

She says she "enjoys being around children. I find them amusing and fun." She says she always wanted to work with children.

Eversden said she likes being involved in the community. "The day-care centre is a very needed service in our community."

Eversden teaches early childhood courses at the college for the Continuing Education students.

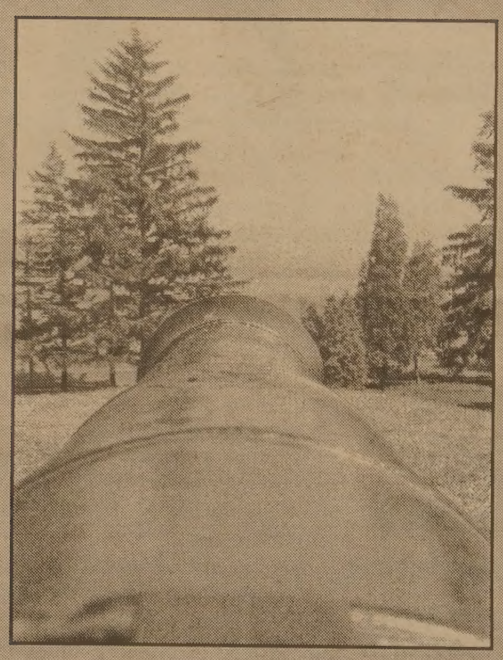
"I believe early childhood education is important for working with children. It helps you to understand them better."

The day-care centre provides a safe environment for children from infant to three years old.

' I believe early childhood education is important for working with children. It helps you to understand them better.'
—Pat Eversden

Outside teaching and the day-care centre, Eversden is a certified aerobics instructor. She says she likes to play tennis and jog.

Niagara College has produced other successful graduates. Among them are Debbie Zimmerman, an alumnus of the Journalism-Print program, and chair of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, and Peter Kormos, MPP for Niagara-Centre. He was in the Social Service Worker program.

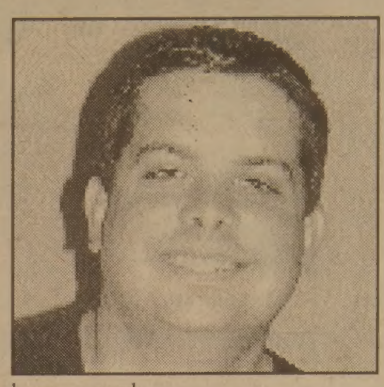


photos by
Tara Purpura
John Robbins
& Derek Smith

Viewpoints

Government wrong to support Faulder

Convicted killer denied last-minute reprieve despite federal government's attempt to save Canadian



By JASON VIZBULIS
Staff Writer

Stanley Faulder was executed on June 17, 1999. It was about time.

Through countless appeals and 23 years on death row in the United States, justice has finally been served.

Lengthy appeals make a mockery of the legal system.

A convicted first-degree murderer can walk into a courtroom and argue his rights are violated. At the same time, there seems to be little concern for the victim.

Where was Faulder's cry for justice when he so savagely killed a 75-year-old woman in a botched robbery attempt? What happened to her rights?

The fact Faulder was Canadian should make no difference in the decision. The murder took place in the state of Texas. This state is well known for the execution of convicted murderers.

Texas politicians run for election with the promise of continuing and enhancing the use of the death penalty.

We, as Canadians, have no right to impose our moral standards on the United States and Texas, just as the U.S. has no right to tell us our drug or immigration laws are too loose.

The Canadian government showed poor judgment in supporting Faulder.

Does our government not have better ways of spending its time and money?

There was a war in Kosovo where mass atrocities were committed.

These bleeding heart liberals would rather have the murderer suffer a mental execution than a physical one.

War criminals need to be caught, and if found guilty, executed. This should be the priority of the Canadian government, not some 61-year-old convicted murderer on death row.

There is a moral dilemma for those who oppose its use. Taking a life to avenge another is considered wrong. Those who feel this way have no problem with locking criminals up for the rest of their natural lives.

This is just as immoral as execution. Sitting in a cell for countless years thinking about what was done, with no contact with the outside world, is not the way to live.

Human nature dictates we were not meant to be caged like animals.

However, to those who are against the death penalty, it relieves the guilt they feel for imposing justice. As long as the criminal is locked up, they are happy.

These bleeding heart liberals would rather have the murderer suffer a mental execution than a physical one.

We must draw the line on political correctness

Public viewpoint challeges the supremacy of God in Charter; NDP MP Svend Robinson is just doing his job

By TARA PURPURA
Staff Writer

At what point should we draw the line regarding political correctness?

Writers, actors, artists — anyone who will influence the public — must not only follow industry-accepted styles, but must also produce content which is respectful to everyone.

Will the human race go so far as to rename "Mankind" or "History"? Personally, I believe the dictionary is large enough.

On June 8, an event in the House of Commons made me question where to draw the line. Svend Robinson, NDP MP, presented a petition of 1,000 signatures in the House demanding the removal of references to God in the Canadian Constitution.

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states, "Whereas Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law."

It seems no one is immune to what happens in Canadian politics these days -- not the wealthy, not the charities, not even God.

The Humanist Association of Canada drafted the petition suggesting that the reference be changed to "the supremacy of intellectual freedom and the rule of law," and the mention of God in the Constitution is a "discriminatory

reference and offensive to millions of Canadians who are non-Christian and non-religious."

I understand we live in a free society, but to rewrite the Constitution would leave a crack in the foundation of this country.

Although the backbone of our laws states we recognize the supremacy of God, the courts allow for other deities or convictions.

When taking an oath, a person has the option of swearing on a bible, or if that does not conform to customs or beliefs, to swear over a legal document binding the person to tell the truth.

For conducting his actions without consulting his party, Robinson was moved to the backbench of the House.

Alexa McDonough, the NDP leader, stated in the Commons her party does not want references to God removed.

Robinson said he was only the messenger for his British Columbia constituents who wanted him to forward the petition to the House.

Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

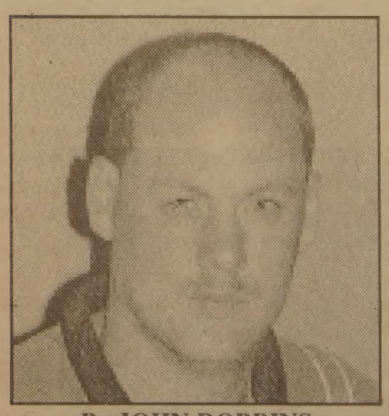
Most people in a democratic society understand politicians will go to great lengths to please their constituents, but did Robinson really think before he leapt? He's certainly not going to walk on the hot water in which he lands.

Most people stand somewhere in the middle of the politically correct arena. We should accept people who stand at both edges of that spectrum and allow them a voice. Instead of standing on Mount Sinai and shouting out to the nation, Robinson, acting as that voice, should have whispered.

We must tread this path of political correctness very lightly so as not to offend the easily offended. A line must be drawn.

Women are people. The elderly are people. The infirm are people and minorities are people. As people, instead of drawing attention to socially unacceptable labels by overemphasizing political correctness, why don't we just follow the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Opposition parties need to present voters with alternatives



By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

June's Ontario provincial election, which saw Mike Harris and his "Big Blue Machine" returned to power, was more a war of attrition than the sweeping victory some would portray.

Yes, people rewarded Mike for keeping his promises. So too, did the people of Ontario drink from the chalice of everlasting tax relief, yet thirsteth for more. Enough already! I'm willing to concede his re-annointment, but not before I finger the real thorn in my side.

If Harris was re-elected because of his leadership, then the Liberals and New Democrats lost before the first shot was fired. Like many an arm-chair general preceding me, I wish to offer counsel to the vanquished.

The Liberals

Ontario's party-of-the-centre has to lose its cannibalistic, post-electoral habit of sacrificing its leader. After all, they led Dalton McGuinty — like Lyn McLeod before him — to the mouth of the volcano. And, as if to absolve the sins of the whole tribe, they'll push him in.

Sure, McGuinty proved to be the Dan Quayle of the Great White North. With almost no name recognition going into the election, McGuinty soon found himself in the cross-hairs of NDP party leader Howard Hampton and Harris during the televised leadership debate. He was cut to shreds by two veteran campaigners who treated McGuinty as if he was the incumbent premier.

The real problem for the Liberals, however, is that they have no policies. Not even McGuinty could articulate whatever it is Liberals are supposed to represent. The event most indicative of their internal, eternal, dogmatic amnesia was the defection of two Liberal back-bench MPPs shortly before the election — one to the NDP, the other to the Tories.

Afraid to take a stand, they stick to the mushy middle of Ontario's political spectrum, not only sitting on the picket fence, but impaling themselves. Perhaps they should take heed of that old biblical warning, "Neither hot nor cold, but lukewarm; I spit thee out of my mouth." Liberals everywhere, get a spine.

The NDP

"Sticks and stones will break my bones, the unions really hurt me." This catchy jingle is certain to be the NDP's mea culpa. Granted, the shaky, 40-year-old marriage of big labour and small 's' socialists has been on the rocks since former leader Bob Rae became a "born again" fiscal conservative and got into bed with the Bay Street boys.

This time, however, the unions were the the adulterous partner, lusting after any Liberal candidate with even a faint chance of defeating a Tory candidate. Strategic voting failed to produce results. Even former union leader Sid Ryan placed a dismal third in his election bid. Listen up, Howie, it's time to kick 'em to the curb.

The NDP has, for lack of fresh ideas, become a cob-web-laced shell of its former glory. After all, this is the party which was innovative enough to pilot the first socialized medical insurance plan anywhere in North America.

If the NDP is to have a future value, other than drawing votes away from the Liberals and keeping the Tories in power forever, then they will need some creative thinking. The days of centrally planned state economies are gone.

New policies like co-operative employee-run industries, stakeholder businesses and a Bank of Ontario would be a start. If Tommy Douglas, the fire-brand prairie evangelist and NDP founder, were alive today, I'm sure he would say, "To hell with convention, they want conviction."

Well, Mike, you're safe for now . . . enjoy it while it lasts.

Viewpoints

Journalism takes a turn for worse

By MIRANDA HUBBS
Staff Writer

Journalism today has taken a turn for the worse.

There are good journalists and then there are ones at the opposite end of the moral spectrum, better known as the "paparazzi."

These people give journalism a bad reputation. When I tell people I am studying to become a journalist they just look at me as if to say "that's great, but I had better watch what I say."

Some journalists are very respected and are known to be honest, but you have to start somewhere and it is tempting to fall into the tabloids because of the money.

Now an aspiring journalist myself, I am angry at those who are ruining a reputation I don't have yet. I am personally ticked at those who "stalk" celebrities because entertainment reporting is an area I'd like to go into. The paparazzi make celebrities paranoid about talking to any member of the press. That must stop.

Some journalists are respected and known to be honest.

The meanest journalists usually come from England. Now those guys are horrible. Look at the way they treated Princess Diana. She didn't deserve that treatment. The paparazzi literally stalked her to death.

According to the French magazine *Paris Match* and *Time* magazine, authorities in France say there might have been other causes of the accident that killed Princess Diana and two others, but right now it seems the paparazzi played the biggest role.

Every move she made was photographed. Times she spent with her children, her family, and other personal activities she did were splashed across the front pages.

No one stopped to think about how she felt or how it was hurting her. After her death, members of the media finally did stop and look at what they were doing. Too little too late.

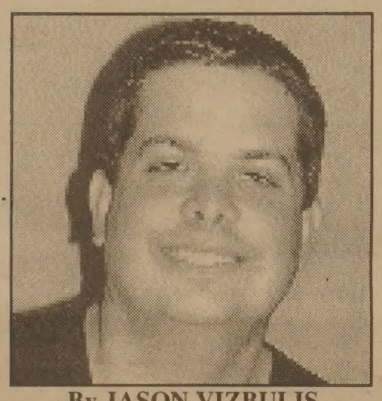
Journalists have to report what people want to know, but there is a line to be drawn as to just how much they really need to know.

A lot of the media is taken up by what Prince Charles is doing with his girlfriend Camilla Parker Bowes rather than reporting on what is going on in a Third World country.

Who cares what celebrities do behind closed doors? They're just people like the rest of us and deserve a little privacy. I am curious as to what they like to do and what their favourite music is, but I don't need to know who's sleeping with whose significant other — you know what I mean?

What I am saying to all journalists is take a look at what you are writing before you print or broadcast it, and ask yourselves — is it really newsworthy?

Tax relief for Canadian hockey teams



By JASON VIZBULIS
Staff Writer

Tax relief for Canadian teams in the National Hockey League (NHL) sounds absurd, but it's a courtesy our governments extend to other industries to create and sustain jobs.

Most large companies receive tax breaks. Automakers General Motors, Ford and Daimler Chrysler are all given lower taxes, water and hydro rates so they remain in Canada, where they employ taxpaying citizens. Without tax relief there would be no auto industry in Canada.

These tax breaks are needed to compete with our neighbour to the south and Mexico.

The NHL is an industry that, like the auto industry, employs people and creates spin-off jobs. Yet, the hockey teams are required to pay full taxes without any help from the government.

In the last five years, due to the hypocritical stance of our government, the Quebec Nordiques and Winnipeg Jets moved to greener pastures in the United States where tax breaks and government-funded arenas are common.

The cities of Winnipeg and Quebec City no longer have the benefit of the professional hockey teams. Besides collecting taxes from the highly paid players, bars and restaurants have lost valued revenue from fans who spend freely before and after the games. The arenas in these cities are now empty most of the time, and they employed many people. The sad fact is those jobs and tax revenues are gone and are not coming back.

While our government is hesitant to give tax breaks to Canadian hockey teams, it opens the vault when it comes to American film companies. Toronto and Vancouver are often the sites of prominent American movies. These cities are beautiful, but that is not the reason the film companies come to Canada. It's simple. Governments offer them a better deal than anywhere else.

They offer cheaper license fees and tax rates to keep them happy and willing to come back and make more movies. The funny thing is that they're not even Canadian and our government gives them tax breaks while ignoring the needs of Canadian hockey teams.

Tax breaks for millionaires seem crazy, but not in the 1990s

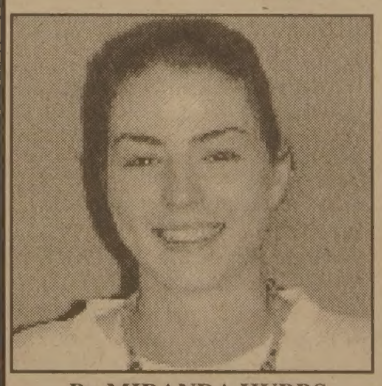
The Ottawa Senators are in the middle of the argument and offer a good example of the hypocrisy of government practices. The Senators are required to pay an 18 per cent entertainment tax on every hockey ticket sold at the Corel Centre. This is on top of the goods and services tax and provincial sales tax.

At the same time, the music group Tragically Hip came to the Corel Centre (home of the Ottawa Senators) and played to a sold-out crowd. The difference is the Hip didn't have to pay the entertainment tax because Canadian acts are exempt. This is done to promote Canadian music.

Tax breaks for millionaires seem crazy, but not in the 1990s. The U.S. film companies that come to Canada, The Tragically Hip, GM, Ford and Daimler Chrysler are all multi-millionaires and receive tax breaks whether they are Canadian or not.

Yet, Canadian hockey teams receive nothing and are expected to survive. Canadian hockey teams should be considered an industry and receive the same benefits given to others in the name of job creation.

Today's teen violence



By MIRANDA HUBBS
Staff Writer

Teens and violence. It's all we seem to hear about these days.

After the shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado, people wanted to lay blame on someone or something. In that incident, two teenagers opened fire on fellow students and exploded pipe bombs, killing and injuring many.

People, especially the parents of the victims at Columbine, wanted to know what drives a teenager to these acts of violence. The finger was immediately pointed at the media.

It was said it was the violence seen on television, in the movies and on video games. Is that the real reason or do we, as a society, just not want to take any responsibility?

No one knows the real reason why this happened because everyone is differently influenced.

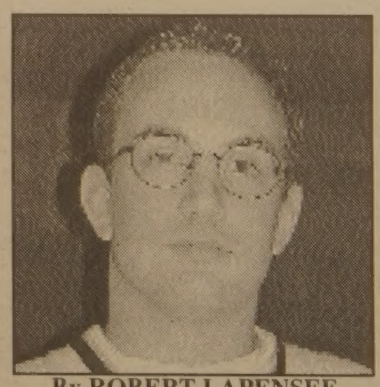
I watched the same movies and television shows, and played the same video games as those boys who did the shooting, but I have no desire to act out what I see.

You have to look deeper than that. I'm not saying it's the parents' fault either, but you have to wonder what else is going on in a youngster's life that could possibly add to their already troubled mind to act out in such extremes. I mean no sane person just watches a violent movie and says, "Hey, cool. I think I'm going to try that." I mean seriously!

I think it's time to take the time to look for warning signs in a troubled youngster so violence doesn't become an option or way out.

I believe it's time parents began paying more attention to their children's behaviour and what they see in the home and in the media, so tragedies such as that at Columbine can be avoided.

Wrestling popular once again



By ROBERT LAPENSEE
Staff Writer

Wrestling is a phenomenon, to say the least.

Just a few short years ago, the World Wrestling Federation was losing money and had very little following. Now, it is at the height of its popularity. It is truly a phenomenon how the world of wrestling turned itself around to become the most-watched weekly cable television program in history. Or is it really a phenomenon at all?

I don't think so. Wrestling just offers the public something other sports can't. In the two-to-three-hour program, wrestling offers sport, rock concerts, sex and intriguing stories. All these elements offer what wrestling promoter calls sports entertainment.

Promoters use wrestling to reflect the times

The wrestling promoters are merely combining the most popular elements of media into a super medium offering satisfaction to all viewers. There's a little something for everyone.

Promoters use wrestling to reflect the times. During the heated Cold War in the 1980s, wrestling used a Russian communist wrestler to battle with the all-American hero. In the early 1990s it was a Kuwaiti wrestler as the villain to symbolize the Gulf War. In the late 1990s, wrestling is moving away from politically incorrect gimmicks for wrestlers.

They push the limits by including sex, profanity and darker story lines in their programs. Instead they are attacking the institutions. They have a working man's hero, a blue chip maniac taking on his boss as an opponent, trying to bring down bureaucracy.

Women's rights are forever increasing, and women's roles in wrestling are increasing as well. Promoters even experimented with a homosexual storyline, but then dropped it as this may still be one taboo wrestling fans aren't ready to deal with.

Their philosophy has always worked, and continues to work.

Wrestling programs remain innovative, fresh and always unpredictable. The wrestling programs appearing on Monday night have stolen ratings from the former Monday night juggernaut, Monday Night Football.

I heard the Academy Awards aired on Sunday this year instead of its traditional Monday time slot to avoid competing with the wrestling programs.

You can hear people chanting the clichés wrestling creates in schools, on the street and on other playing fields. Wrestling turns up in other forms of media. Most of all, wrestling is changing television.

Whether you like it or not, wrestling is a powerful force.

Eye on Niagara

College benefits from veteran cop

Niagara College's Police Studies program has a new teacher who brings 23 years of practical experience to his students

By DEREK SMITH
Staff Writer

There is a new addition to the Niagara College faculty in Welland.

Jim Drury, of Fort Erie, has been a Niagara Regional Police Service officer for the past 23 years.

Drury, 49, is teaching a class called Youth and Conflict with the Law. This is part of the Police Studies program.

Drury said his first love was for teaching.

"I've been to teachers college when I was 19," he said. "When I was done, I realized, I wasn't quite mature enough yet."

He then received his bachelor of arts in psychology, from Brock University in St. Catharines, and a Police Studies program diploma, from McMaster University in Hamilton.

"I've always thought that there should be rules in society, and I was always interested in helping people," he said.

Drury, who applied to the Niagara Regional Police Force in 1970, was hired in 1976.

He worked with the Drug Enforcement Unit for four years and encountered many tense moments.

"I have been a part of teams that have broken into homes, and have actually had a shotgun pointed right at me," he said.

He is now a "police trainer," he said. "I am responsible for co-

'I've always thought that there should be rules in society and I was always interested in helping people.'
—Jim Drury

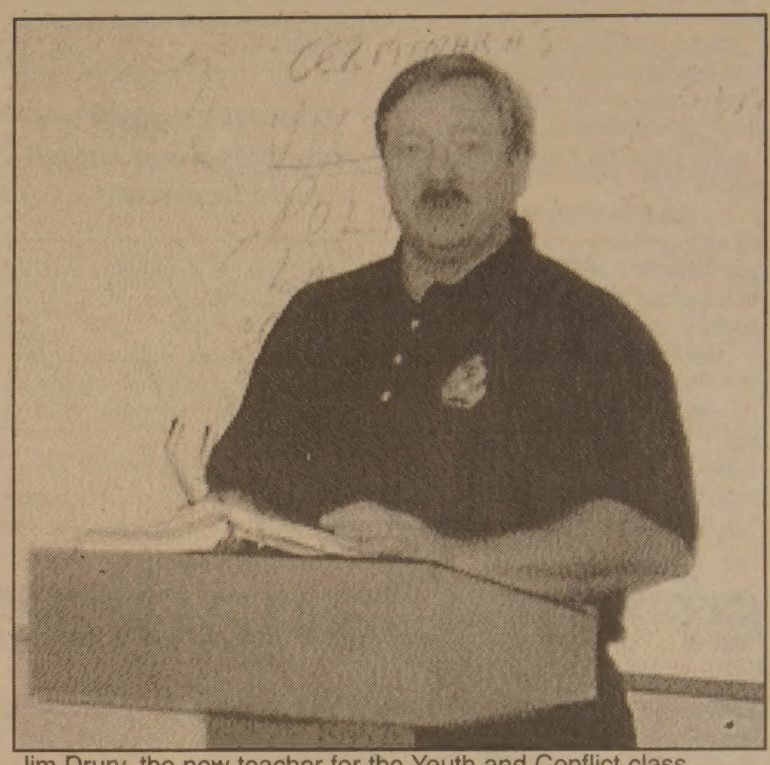
ordinating courses for the Ontario Police College and developing training packages with respect to new case laws."

Drury was asked to teach at the college last September.

"I know a couple of the people here, and I discussed my interest in teaching," he said. "When this opportunity came, I took it."

The class he is teaching is based on the Young Offender's Act.

"It is a police-orientated course, for new, or wannabe officers," he said.



Jim Drury, the new teacher for the Youth and Conflict class, brings 23 years' experience with the Niagara Regional Police to Niagara College.

Photo by Derek Smith

Drury's class has 25 students.

"There is a lot of potential in most of my students," he said. "The desire is also there, which is a big thing."

Drury has high compliments for the staff at the college.

"The staff here has been great," he said.

"Nancy Cain (director of the Justice Studies Division), has been very receptive, and her staff is very efficient with anything that I need."

In his free time, Drury coaches his youngest son's baseball team. He is also active in the Parents Advisory Board at his son's school.

"This takes up the majority of my free time," he said.

"Both my wife and (two) kids understand that I am very busy. If I have a problem, I can voice it, and not let it build up inside."

Drury said his advice for people wanting to be teachers or officers is "never quit at education, always pick up a book, and read. If you don't know something, go find out."

"In order to succeed in life, you have to work for it physically, as well as academically."

So far the feedback Drury said he has gotten from students has been "quite positive."

'I've done everything up there but tap dance'
—Jim Drury

"I've done everything up there but tap dance," he said.

Drury said he had conversations with the college administration and would be "very interested to work here full time."

Guarding Niagara College

Initial Security reports that there have been 103 incidents since September, an increase from last year which can be blamed on the higher number of students enrolled at Niagara College

By PAUL MOONEY
Staff Writer

Initial Security is responsible for all the security measures at Niagara College. The supervisor, Diane McMillan, 54, of Effingham, Ont., works the afternoon security shift at the Welland campus.

"I've been an employee of Initial Security for 12 years, all of which I've spent doing security at Niagara College."

Dawn Klassen, 44, of St. Catharines, considers herself to be a "rookie."

"I've been employed through Initial for just four months and for the duration of my employment I've worked at Niagara College."

As supervisor, McMillan is responsible for the hiring, firing and scheduling for security at Niagara College.

"The primary objective of my job is to ensure Initial is employing security guards that work according to our company's policies," said McMillan.

Initial Security employees are trained in mainly prevention methods. The company doesn't believe that its security officers would benefit from caring any weapon, being a gun or otherwise. "All of our employees have been trained in accordance

Initial

Security

to Initial intervention approach methods, which means all of us have taken programs in risk management and power of observation," says McMillan, adding she feels her employer's approach to breaches of security is effective overall.

"In the last 12 years that I've been employed at Initial, I've only had three confrontations that resulted in any physical action on my part, either to retrieve a stolen object or diffuse a confrontation."

McMillan says this year's incident report is higher than any year she's witnessed.

"So far this year, from September until now there has been 103 incidents reported."

McMillan say she speculates that the "drastic increase" in incidents is just a "ripple effect" of the growing population of the college.

"The more students you have, the more incidents."

However, a percentage of the incidents reported where not committed by students from Niagara College.

McMillan says the majority of the occurrences in theft involved computer equipment.

"The college has so many open computer labs that are very accessible."

The other highest occurrence of reports has involved vehicle theft. In reference to computer and auto thefts, the college has upgraded its security through surveillance cameras.

"Initial is a technologically operated company; it gives us the upper hand in a crisis situaion."

Both McMillan and Klassen say an increase in security budget could enable Initial Security to perform the job at a more effective level.

'More money means more people on staff which definitely decreases the chance of theft and will probably save the college money in the long run.'
—Diane McMillan

"More money means more people on staff, which definitely decreases the chance of theft and will probably save the college money in the long run," says McMillan.

Staff getting ready

Niagara's staff is using the summer to prepare for the rush of incoming students in September

By JASON VIZBULIS
Staff Writer

Gearing up for September is the goal of the employees working at the Niagara College's Welland campus during the summer.

Yvonne Michaud, of Welland, is the textbook and stationery purchaser for the college's bookstore.

Michaud said she'ld love to have the summer off, but realizes working in the summer is important.

It's during this time when all the books and supplies must be ordered, she said.

Working in the summer is different from the fall. "In the summer there's a lot of paper work, while in the fall there's a lot of people work." "People work," she said, is helping students find the proper textbooks.

Michaud said by "the end of summer they'll be ready for the students."

Diane McMillan, of Effingham, Ont., is the site supervisor for Initial Security at Niagara College.

McMillan said she likes working at the college during the summer. It's "a change. We're not as busy as September to April. We get to do a lot of things."

During the summer, the security guards check the fire extinguishers and first aid kits and catch up on paper work in addition to their regular duties, she said.

McMillan said working in the summer is "a little easier, there is not as much tension," because there are not as many students at the college.

Carolyn Gould, of Fonthill, is the college nurse at the Niagara College Health Centre in Welland.

She said she likes working during the summer because it "gives me a chance to catch up."

It also gives her a chance to "socialize" with her support workers, which she can't do during the normal school year because they are so busy, she said.

Gould is a working on projects for the fall semester. The Health Centre is planning a health fair in November to educate students on current health issues. They are also planning, with the Student Administrative Council, a sexual awareness program along with an alcohol awareness program for the students, she said.

Sue Bartlett, of St. Catharines, is a reference technician at Niagara College Library in Welland. She said working during the summer "is a little different than September to April." It allows her to "catch up" on work from the previous year.

However, by the "end of the summer I look forward to the students coming back," Barlett said. "It's exciting. There's lots to do."

Barlett said one of the new projects she'll be doing is helping the English department conduct "a research skills class." Part of the program will involve teaching the students proper ways to research essays using the library's resources.